RAMSEY & WARBOYS
REPORTER
ISSUE 21 • MARCH 2017

COVERING LOCAL NEWS, SERVING LOCAL PEOPLE

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ARMED ROBBER ARRESTED

POLICE LINK LITTLE WHYTE AND GREAT WHYTE THEFTS

The Bookmakers in Little White is one of two local stores which have been robbed last month by a suspect wielding a large knife and demanding money.

Police have arrested an individual suspected of being involved in the armed robbery of two Ramsey stores after a manhunt in the town centre in February.

The first incident occurred before 7:30 pm on Monday 13th February when a man entered a supermarket on the Great Whyte. Having entered the shop, he produced a knife and demanded cash from the staff before leaving the premises. Unconfirmed reports indicate the offender stole over £100. At that time, the suspect was described as a white man in his mid 30s, wearing a baggy grey jumper, light grey jogging bottoms and white trainers, and a light grey hat with eye-holes cut in it, pulled down over his face.

The second armed robbery took place at the bookmakers on Little Whyte at 5:45 pm on Sunday 19th February. This time, the offender was said to be wearing a hi-viz jacket and a hood. Having entered the premises and demanded money, staff initially refused but the man then pulled out a large knife and ran out of the shop after being handed an unknown amount of cash from the till.

Police units were quickly on the scene and began an immediate search of the area. A suspect was arrested later in the evening and taken into custody for questioning.

Evidence recovered by police appears to link the suspect to both robberies, although police have commented that investigations into both crimes are still ongoing.

Police are still seeking information regarding either crime.

Council Tax to rise

At a meeting of full council on Wednesday 22nd February, Huntingdonshire District Council approved its budget for 2017/18.

The budget includes a 2% increase in council tax, the first increase since 2014. A 2% increase to the District Council's element of council tax will mean that an average Band D property will pay £135.84 a year, and represents a rise of just £2.66 per household since council tax was last increased in 2014. 65% of Huntingdonshire residents live in Band A, B or C properties and will therefore see an even smaller annual increase.

Despite an independent remuneration panel's recommendation that Members' allowances be increased by 1%, District Councillors have unanimously voted again not to increase allowances, which have been frozen at their current rate since 2008.

Executive Leader and councillor for Upwood and the Raveleys ***Councillor Robin How e***, said: "Huntingdonshire District Council remains one of the lowest charging councils in the country. We have followed a robust budget-setting process and continue to deliver efficiencies whilst also improving service levels. If we are to maintain and improve frontline services to the level that our residents expect and set a balanced budget, the council has had to consider a small increase in council tax. Our aim is still to keep council tax as low as possible, and we have kept this increase to a minimum. We will continue to work hard to manage the council's finances well as we move towards becoming self-financing by 2019/20 when the government will withdraw its central funding of local councils"

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A VERY SHORT MONTH...

BINGO?

Cllr Adela Costello, Mayor of Ramsey, will be hosting a Charity Bingo Night at Ramsey Forty Foot Village Hall on 16 March at 7pm in aid of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels. All are invited and entry is free.

The County Council road drainage survey of Ramsey High Street which was to have taken place from 20 February has been delayed. Work is now due to be rescheduled for the end of May - further details to follow.

Ramsey's Clock remains out of action, with repairs currently underway. There is no word yet on when the iconic landmark will return to its former glory.

58:52

How many minutes and seconds it took Adam to complete his first 10K race event. See how pleased he is on page 29

£2,000

Money raised by the Warboys 55 Plus club to purchase a defibrillator for use in an emergency in Warboys. Read more on Page 6.

Bin Timetable Changes

Your new collection days have been updated on the online bin collection calendar, with letters sent to households in early February. The online bin calendar will show your correct collection days for your bins. Further information will be available at: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/, Recycle for Huntingdonshire's Facebook page or by telephoning 01480 388640.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2017

2th **Ramsey CRUNCH tough love**
Ramsey Cricket Club

8th **The Great Fen Excavation**
Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre

10th **Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy**
Ramsey Community Centre

14th **U3a Ramsey & District**
Ramsey Community Centre

14th **1940's Volunteer Day**
1940's Camp. Ramsey

18th **Marvellous Moments**
Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre

8th, 15th, 18th, 21st
Crime Fest
Ramsey Library

For more information, please visit: discoverramsey.co.uk/events

ITS A GOOD MONTH FOR

ABBEY COLLEGE

The local secondary school has enjoyed awards at home and trips away this month.

ITS A BAD MONTH FOR

WEATHER

Storm Doris caused fallen trees and power outages, with Tescos Ramsey forced to close.

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COVERING LOCAL NEWS SERVING LOCAL PEOPLE

The Ramsey & Warboys Reporter is an independent newspaper with no ties or associations with any larger publishers or organisations.
Each month, we bring you the best selection of news, views and what's on in the Ramsey area - written and produced locally and delivered FREE to your door.

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If you have a story or if you know of an event which may be of local interest please let us know; we can publish it in your newspaper,
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Abbey College Strikes Gold in Religious Education Quality Mark

Abbey College, Ramsey, is celebrating after being awarded the highest award for the quality of its Religious Education.

The college was awarded the prestigious Gold Religious Education Quality Mark which recognises and celebrates outstanding teaching of religious education within schools. Gold is the highest mark a school can achieve under the award.

Andy Christoforou, headteacher of Abbey College, said: "It is great to have the hard work of our RE department and the quality of our teaching recognised and celebrated. I am very proud of the efforts of our students and teachers."

The Quality Mark is monitored by The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) which is comprised of a number of academic and professional associations, specialising in religions and religious education.

The recognition also means that work completed at the College will appear on the RE Quality Mark website as an example of exemplary work.

The award follows a highly successful year for the college. Last week the college was placed above national average and in the top 25 per cent of schools for its GCSE results, and in the top 4 per cent for its A Levels.

Mr Christoforou added: "It is very pleasing to see the hard work of our teachers and community converted into very positive results. Next year we are already significantly oversubscribed for places in Year 7 which means the community is becoming increasingly confident and proud of the College's consistent achievements."

For more information, please visit the Religious Education Quality Mark website: www.reqm.org

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FREE ESTIMATES

Beatles and John Denver enjoyed at St Thomas a Becket Church

On Saturday, 4th February over thirty members of The Huntingdon Male Voice Choir treated an enthusiastic audience at St Thomas a Becket Church to songs by John Denver and The Beatles, with many arrangements set by Peter Davies, their musical director with accompanist Collete Patmore-Hill. The evening also featured resident organist Neville Palmer who also received much applause.

Over £450 was raised and will go towards the cost of a new disabled access ramp.

RAMSEY CHORAL SOCIETY NEWS

Ramsey Choral Society's first concert of their 26th year will be Haydn's 'Creation' on Saturday 1st April in St Thomas a Becket Church Ramsey at 7.30pm. The choir will be joined by 3 professional soloists and organist all conducted by Musical Director Angus Davidson.

Tickets including refreshments £10 in advance or £12 on the door, available from 01487 813819, School Plus Ramsey or www.ramseychoral.org

The choir rehearse every Thursday in Ramsey Junior School from 7.30 to 9.30pm and new members are always welcome. There are no auditions just a love of singing required!

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Town Council to tackle speeding in St Mary's

A large group of town councillors met in Ramsey St Mary's on Thursday February 9th to discuss potential speed and traffic calming measures at the junction leading to Ramsey Town and Ramsey Heights.

Councillors and local campaigners endured wind and rain to hear from an engineer from Cambridgeshire County Council in order to ascertain the best method of curbing speeding in the area. Suggestions included build-outs and larger signage, with additions such as a mobile vehicle activated sign to help warn drivers. This last could be shared between any of the Ramsey villages, as if one goes in it would be owned by the town council who would coordinate the movement of the sign.

Speaking at the gathering, Councillor John Palmer said "We are here to try and agree a scheme that will be safe and acceptable for everyone, including farm equipment and HGVs, and will make it a safer road". He also noted, with regard to a perceived lack of effort from the council, that "something like this needs someone to drive this through - the money has been available, it just needs someone to drive it through instead of just talking about it. There's been too many people that talk about it and not actually getting off their backsides - so that's what I'm doing."

Michael Drury, a long time campaigner who has worked with both Speedwatch and Community Roadwatch in the area, said he was heartened to see the so many councillors taking the time to visit the site. "I was following up, for a long long time, the commitment from the county council back in the mid 90's to speed calm here - it never happened! I've been chasing that for years" he said, adding "I am reassured, I didn't realise there was so much commitment amongst the council members."

He also praised the work of Councillor Palmer, who has spearheaded a number of recent road safety improvements in the area, saying "Mr Palmer really is a top man, he's fighting on my side to get something done". However, Mr Drury remains adamant that the speed limit should be restricted to 30mph, saying "Thirty is what the residents want, because they've seen the vehicles going by at almost 90 miles per hour, and we have elderly people that pull out their drives, that walk along the street, and there is no footpath". It is unlikely that this will occur in the near future.

The Town Council has already earmarked £11,000 for work attached to the site. Cllr Palmer remarked that "This is how strongly Ramsey Town Council feel about supporting our residents. We've funded it ourselves because then we know we've got the money instead of trying to get it elsewhere. Unfortunately, if you go to other places like the windmill fund, you are actually limiting other good causes in the town and the villages. They have as much need as anyone else without us pinching it".

Cllr Adela Costello, Mayor of Ramsey, added "Ramsey Town Council is committed to improving road safety at the junction by the bridge at Ramsey St. Mary's. There are numerous incidents taking place because of the poor visibility for drivers turning right onto Herne Road. Cambridge County Council Highways department will be reporting back to the town council in the future with a plan for approval or rejection. Once this plan has been seen and approved, the work will be greenlighted, although this is not expected to begin until later in the year.

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Residents show support for overseas charity

Representatives from the Trinita Society for Social and Health Research visited Ramsey this month to highlight their work with child labourers and underprivileged children in India.

Trinita was founded during 1997 in Kolkata, often known informally as Calcutta, the principal commercial, cultural, and educational centre of East India which houses over 14 million in its suburban areas. The project works with the poor and the marginalized sections of the society on education and health. It is also helping disadvantaged children and their families, many of whom are working long hours within Kolkata and sending money to their family in outlying areas. Trinita is working to create lasting changes and injustice, and works regardless of religion, caste, race, ethnicity or gender.

Currently, the project funds several schools and shelters, two for boys and two for girls, and provides meals, training and schooling to many others who do not reside on their premises. The project has also been able to convince companies to allow their workers to breakfast with them while they provide basic schooling, cutting down on working hours and providing an education to hundreds of children in the area.

Trinita has also been trying to empower women and girls and to help them in times of distress through different action oriented programs, with a focus on child development and ensuring their due rights.

Anthony Das, the founder of the project, thanked those who attended the event and those who had contributed from Ramsey, saying `It is really exciting, and I am really happy that I could at least share my feelings and the work I do, so that the message is spread and we will see a very new world one day.

He also noted that his project, while currently limited to Kolkata, was one of many that were working for change in the area, using his favourite Shakespearean aphorism: "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the might ocean and the present land". "I believe that", he adds "and we are working towards that. Every small contribution coming from individuals is well respected with us".

Drs Arun and Rita Aggarwal, who were responsible for arranging the visit, have visited the project twice in the past. Dr Arun spoke of the transforming experience of visiting the children, saying "Its really humbling and heartwarming, and you can see that every penny is making a difference. Kids who have all got individual tragedies are normal kids - they love playing twister, they loved a day out at the beach that we organised for them, they love doing normal things. Some of these kids have got so much talent, to see them get through their education, not drop out and some even going on to engineering or nursing training, its transforming. Even if its just one person at a time. "

Several local residents attended the event, including Chris and Gwen, who have been supporting the charity for a number of years. Gwen, who knits scarfs, hats and other items for the children, said I think it is wonderful that Rita and Arun have arranged this, and I'm just over the moon we are able to help with this wonderful project, its thrilled us that we are able to support the work".

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WARBOYS STORIES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All parishes have to hold at least one parish meeting each year which every person on the electoral roll is entitled to attend and the Annual Parish Meeting in Warboys will be held on Wednesday, 19th April.

This year's guest speakers will be Dr Wilcox from the Moat House Surgery who will be giving an update on services at the surgery and other developments involving health provision in the area and Arlene Clasper the Council's Timebank Co-ordinator who will be explaining the benefits of joining the Timebank.

The meeting will take place at the Parish Centre, High Street, Warboys at 7.30 p.m. and will also include an update on the work of the Parish Council over the past year. Questions can be raised by anyone on the night but if there are any specific questions that you would like answered by the guest speakers or the Council, it would help if you could let the Clerk know in advance on roy.reeves@awrboyspc.freeserve.co.uk or 01487 823562.

FLOODING IN WARBOYS? IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE...

Well it has twice in the past decade when properties were flooded in Fenton Road and a look at the flood plain map on the Environment Agency website shows that it includes most of the parish north of the village. With the development taking place in Warboys, there is an added risk in the future if drains and sewers become overloaded.

Communities are being encouraged to set up volunteer Flood Groups to liaise with the Environment Agency and other authorities to try to mitigate flood risk in their areas and develop local Flood Plans.

The Parish Council will establish a Flood Group in Warboys if volunteers are willing to come forward so if you are interested in helping, please supply your contact details to the Clerk at roy.reeves@warboyspc.freeserve.co.uk or 01487 823562.

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WARBOYS GETS ITS OWN DEFIBRILLATOR

Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the Warboys 55 Plus club, a grand total of £2,000 has been raised to purchase a defibrillator for use in an emergency in Warboys.

The defibrillator has been located outside Wards of Warboys at 1 Ramsey Road with the kind permission of the owner and is now live with the Ambulance Service.

It will be maintained by Warboys Parish Council with an on-line monitoring arrangement with the Community Heartbeat Trust and over 30 members of the public recently attended an awareness training session organised by the Trust.

In an emergency, don't worry if you didn't attend the session. Simply dial 999 and the Ambulance Service will direct you to the machine and give you the access code. The defibrillator talks you through the correct procedure as will the call handler.

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL TEXTILE BANKS

Well done to everyone who has used the textile banks in the Library car park over the past year to dispose of their surplus clothes and shoes.

Although there are lots of options to dispose of unwanted clothing either through charity shops or door-to-door charity collections, use of the textile banks means that the recycling credits of £520.50 over the past year are paid to Warboys Parish Council and retained for use in the village.

All profits from the clothes that are collected in Warboys still go to charity through Planet Aid UK Ltd., a non-profit organisation who donate the proceeds to development work in Africa and India.

Roy Reeves
Clerk to the Parish Council.

DISTRICT COUNCIL AWARDS £534,000 FUNDING TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Following the decision in July 2016 to award further funding to support the voluntary sector, Huntingdonshire District Council is pleased to announce that after a successful tendering process it has awarded £534,000 in voluntary sector funding for the next three years, in the form of two contracts.

The two contracts, commencing from 1 April 2017, will see the Council work with the voluntary and community sector to support the provision of a range of information, advice and guidance to residents of Huntingdonshire, and seek to support and build capacity in the vibrant voluntary and community sector that exists within the District. The contracts will run until 31 March 2020.

The contract for the provision of information, advice and guidance has been awarded to Rural Cambs Citizens Advice. The contract will see them continuing to provide high quality professional advice to residents through their online activities, telephone contact, face to face offices, and the availability of home visits.

The second contract for supporting and building capacity in the voluntary and community sector will see a consortium of Hunts Forum, as the lead organisation, work with Allia, Cambridgeshire ACRE and Living Sport.

Councillor Ryan Fuller, Executive Councillor with responsibility for voluntary sector and community grants, said: "In making this grant award, the District Council continues to foster its relations with, and support for the voluntary and community services that exist within Huntingdonshire. We recognise the valuable services that organisations such as Citizens Advice and Hunts Forum provide in supporting our residents, communities and businesses; often adding value to traditional Council services, or in some cases providing services directly to the Council. With this funding I am confident that we will see a continued strength in the voluntary sector for the benefit of everyone in Huntingdonshire."

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DISCOVER RAMSEY

This month, Discover Ramsey takes a closer look at our high street right here in Ramsey. What is next for the Great Whyte, and how is our High

A Journey Through Time – a FREE heritage day

By Emily Bradley-Dorman

Once again Ramsey is opening its doors and inviting you to celebrate its rich heritage by taking 'A Journey Through Time'; from when the Abbey thrived in medieval times to the celebration of our 1940's heroes and so much more. Ramsey has had its fair share of excitement and on the 2nd of April, the last day of English National Tourism Week, it's all laid out for you to see. Oh and did I mention its all free?

From 11am to 5pm The Abbey Gate House, Thomas a Becket Church, The Lady Chapel and Abbey House, Booth's Hill (Ice House), the Walled Kitchen Garden, the Mortuary Chapels, Ramsey Rural Museum and The 1940's Camp are all showing off what makes them great. The Old Nene Golf and Country Club are opening their doors and have some medieval themed family fun for you to enjoy as you take a look at their brand new venue, bar and kitchen. There is a free vintage bus service for you to make your way through Ramsey's rich history in style. The bus will be leaving the Library on the hour and stopping at each site.

While on your travels there are a few things I suggest you keep an eye out for. Firstly, stop in at the Library where you can get all the information you need and collect leaflets about the sites. When at the Mortuary Chapels go and have a look at the photographic exhibition of all the memorials and headstones that Community Payback have uncovered over the past year. The Walled Garden has a new glasshouse, which is most definitely worth a gander and, if you are feeling a bit peckish, the Ramsey Rural Museum is hosting a Food & Craft Fair.

Sunday 2nd of April - 11am-5pm

Oh, and don't think we've forgotten about Rammy. Last Heritage Day saw Ramsey swarmed with Rammy and his friends and this time is no different. While making your way through the ages keep an eye out for our furry friends hiding at each site. If you can find them all there are prizes to be won! And if that wasn't enough Old Nene Golf & Country Club will be hosting a whole selection of medieval family fun to keep everyone entertained.

Last but certainly not least the 1940's Camp is offering something very special this Heritage Day as they are showing the award winning film, "Great Fen Spitfire Excavation". The film not only portrays this local story it is also an excellent tribute to those who should not be forgotten by showing eyewitness accounts in a this fitting location.

So lets recap. 2nd of April Ramsey is 'Open for Discovery' between 11am-5pm. Travel through time and find Rammy and his knitted Friends, see what Ramsey has to offer and enjoy yourselves! Make your own way around the sites or take a ride on the FREE Vintage Bus. The choice is yours but remember, the 2nd of April! You do not want to miss it!!

NEW PARISH PRIEST

Catholic Church of The Sacred Heart in Ramsey, part of the Parish of St Jude's Whittlesey and The Sacred Heart Ramsey Welcomes Father Michael Vulliamy as Parish Priest.

On Sunday 26th February at 09:00am Mass at Ramsey and 10:30am Mass at Whittlesey Bishop Alan Hopes Will induct Fr Michael as new Parish Priest to both churches.

Friday 3rd March is Women's World Day of Prayer and a service written by the Christian women of the Philippines will be celebrated at Sacred Heart at 7:30pm. Everybody is welcome.

Stations of the Cross start on Tuesday 7th March at 7:00pm and continue every Tuesday during Lent.

And we have Children's activities starting on 12th February and continuing every 2nd Sunday of the Month.

A warm welcome awaits everybody, so please come and join us.

By Donna Haysom

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HETAS

Ramsey Couple to celebrate in 1940's style

A couple from Ramsey are looking back to the past to celebrate their wedding with an authentic 1940's experience, courtesy of the Ramsey 1940's camp and a few of their own ingenious touches.

Self-described "1940's fanatics" Graham and Cherie, who live in Ramsey with their three children, will be theming their entire wedding around the 1940's, with all guests in full period dress and the camp providing the ideal venue.

"When we decided to get hitched we obviously wanted to make our day unique. But weddings cost alot so what can we do?" said Cherie. The answer? "1940's wedding! Using the make do and mend rules of WW2!"

The wedding itself, which is set to be held on April 1st, will include 36 day time guests, all in 1940's clothes (6 evacuee page boys and 3 bridesmaids included) catching the Dews' Bedford bus from the drill hall to the registration office and back. These guests will also enjoy a 1940's wedding breakfast, complete with Spam, before over 100 people return in the evening for a wartime buffet and entertainment by a live 1940s cockney pub singer.

The watchword is authenticity, with all materials, sweets, outfits and decorations limited to those available during the war, with the camp staff dressed to match and providing props such as vintage vehicles and an air raid siren.

Speaking to The Ramsey Reporter, Cherie recalled her interest in the period stemming

from her childhood, saying "even as a child I was fascinated by the past probably down to the fact my grandparents lived in a big old house and even in the 90s all their mod cons weren't very mod. In fact, my grandma still used one of the very first electrical hoovers available on the market and the house was still using the old fashion round pin plugs".

The family often travels around the country to attend 40's events, with their favourites being Ramsey, Holme and Sherringham's weekends, always dressing in full period costume. "Graham, the children and I love museums and history and we love the camaraderie of the 1940s. We attract a lot of attention at the weekends due to having a real baby in a real old pram".

As for the site itself, Cherie encourages any and all to make use of the unique facility, saying "we would definitely encourage the use of the camp and it benefits the community and the staff that run it, and also it puts Ramsey on the map as the 1940s weekend attracts a lot of people".

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BENWICK BANTER

BENWICK IN BLOOM

By Jill Hindle

Engaging with the community.

We began the group back in 2012. Our main purpose is to enhance the village, making it a nicer place to live as we care about where we live.

We have succeeded as over the past 4 years we have won Silver Awards in the annual "Anglia in Bloom Competition which is a great accolade for our labours besides the numerous good comments from residents.

Commit to the community

However, we are not all about Bloom (flowers), we commit to the community. It's about bringing a community together to enjoy the spirit of village life, engaging with people who like to get involved, like a chat and a get together - be it over Fish n' Chips at the pub, being united in our projects, as with the Poppies our ladies are knitting and crocheting for Remembrance Sunday , a wonderful response plus others who live outside Benwick willing to participate.

We are looking for volunteers to help put Benwick into Bloom again this summer. No hard work involved mostly planting tubs.

Dates will be given when the planting season begins, just a couple of hours on a Saturday morning to make the village look good.

Contact us through Facebook.

Another derelict building on the High Street demolished to make way for a new build, this used to be the old Butchers Shop covered in ivy and derelict for many years, Benwick beginning to thrive again.

Benwick in Bloom have commissioned an information board to be placed inside St Marys Churchyard opposite the WW11 Pill Box.

The Pill Box is now a Bat Roost which is explained on the information board along with an interesting bit of Benwick history which is also on the board as well as the recently donated marble plaque of the fallen during WW1, which at one time was housed in the now demolished Methodist Chapel on the High Street.

The information board itself plus the one already in the Churchyard has been made and donated by prominent agricultural service engineering company L R Boon & Sons Ltd.

Last year Benwick in Bloom received the Silver Gilt Award at the awards ceremony – Pictured are: Back row. Richard Billington, Tarina Louch, left to right Clare Billington vice chair Benwick in Bloom,

Bob Ollier centre Chairman of Anglia in Bloom and Janet Fountain.

This year we are aiming for GOLD and need all the support we can get, plant your tubs and hanging baskets, pick up your litter and let's have a go.

BENWICK FORGET ME NOT CLUB

Forthcoming events

The next meeting is on Thursday, 2nd March when lady jockeys from Newmarket will talk about their life and experiences.

On 6th April a theatrical costumer will give an account of her time spent working in London.

Ten pin bowling

An outing to Guyhirn for ten pin bowling has been arranged for Wednesday, 3rd May and the following day on the 4th it's the club's birthday party. (Numbers will be required for this event).

If you are 55 and over, male or female you are very welcome. Meetings are held at 6.30 pm in the village hall on the first Thursday of the month.

Down Memory Lane with Janet Fountain

Benwick Feast

One of my earliest memories is Benwick Feast, which was always a time of merriment in the village. Village life was mostly connected to agriculture and it wasn't until after the Second World War when people went away for their holidays, so the annual holiday was taken in July when it was a slack time on the farms, just waiting for the corn harvest. Feast nights were 17th, 18th and 19th July or the nearest if a Sunday was involved.

Benwick Feast was followed by Ramsey Fair and Warboys Feast and most people went to all three. There were very few cars but nearly everyone had a bike, some even had two - one for work and one for best. That was generally the mode of transport at that time. The excitement in the village started to build up a few days before the Feast opened. The living caravans and the big lorries carrying all the amusements and the generators started to arrive and as children we watched the men erect it all.

Coconuts and goldfish

The Feast was always on the open ground at the top of the High Street, but when it became full it carried on down the street and at one time the cake walk was near the Methodist Chapel. The living vans would park along the old Station Road near the Rectory along the riverside. I remember names such as Fendicks and Thurstons with the jollity farm and the cake walk, Charlie Nunn with the children's roundabout and the coconut shy, Albert Walsh had 'win a goldfish', darts and a rifle range as well as Rocky Thompson with a rock and sweet stall. The prizes were chalk dogs, wall plaques, coconuts and goldfish but folks were delighted when they won.

The seven pubs in the street did a roaring trade. Some of the men (women didn't go in them at first) would do a pub crawl and have a drink in The Nag's Head, The Pack Horse, The Five Alls, The George, The White Hart, The Bell and finish up at The Boot and Slipper (the top house as it was known) as that was where the Feast was. Six of the pubs were only beer houses though, The Boot and Slipper was the only one with a wine and spirit licence but I do not ever remember any violence or vandalism. The Five Alls obtained a wine and spirit licence in 1957 when there were major alterations carried out by Watney's brewery.

Cricket

It wasn't just at night time that village people enjoyed themselves. There were activities during the daytime too. The village cricket field was down Chase Road, near Keyworth farm and matches were held there. The players would all come back to The Bell for tea. Tug O' War, Tossing the Sheaf, Throwing a 4 stone weight and demonstrations would be held on the field too. Harry Oliver used his work bus to take the villagers to the field. Bowls matches were held too. There were two bowling greens, one at The White Hart and the other at The Boot and Slipper. The Five Alls got their green later.

Ramsey Juniors aid Sierra Leone

Pupils at the Ramsey Junior School have been collecting all manner of items to send out to the children at The David School, Sierra Leone.

The students donated a large variety of household items, including toothpaste and toothbrushes, to The David School, which lies 36 miles outside of Freetown in Sierra Leone– a hub for youngsters in the community to go to and receive an education.

The school, which was set up in 2008 by former Ailywn School headmaster David Wallwork, is located on a fairly extensive, very primitive subsistence farm at a place only referred to as 'the farm at mile 36' in the Koya Chiefdom. The establishment now caters for up to 300 pupils, offering them a "chance to learn which could make a very significant difference to their lives and provide them with opportunities which we in this country take for granted."

A message on The David School's website thanked the children for their contributions. Mr Wallwork personally visited the Junior School to give a presentation on West Africa and take collection of the items.

The supplies are expected to arrive at the school within the coming weeks.

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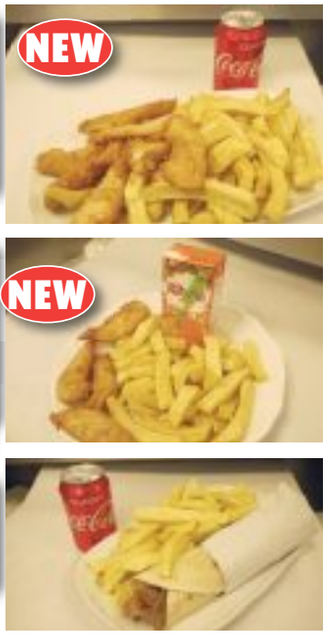

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RAMSEY ROTARY

Ramsey Rotary have been at their busiest this month, providing story after story for this page! Read on to find out more about their fundraising activities, new initiatives and their weekly get-together.

Maggie and David with local health workers

Local Rotary Members Help with India Polio Vaccinations

Two members of Ramsey Rotary Club, David and Maggie Furniss, have recently returned from India where they helped to vaccinate 173 million children against polio on one day. In January or February each year, the Indian Medical authorities hold a National Immunisation Day (known as NID) across the whole country with the aim of vaccinating every child under five against polio. Rotary members from this country and others have supported the NID for many years.

For more than thirty years, Rotary International has worked with partners to eradicate polio from the face of the earth. Polio is a highly infectious disease often spread by contaminated water and mostly attacking children under the age of five. It attacks the central nervous system and can lead to paralysis of the legs and the lungs. There is no cure for the disease, but there is a highly effective vaccine available.

The Rotary End Polio Now campaign, more recently widely known as the Purple Crocus Campaign because the symbol is a crocus, has focused since the early 1980s on supporting the vaccination of children throughout the world. The last case of polio in England was in 1984, but as late as 1988 polio continued to affect 125 countries, including some European ones and 350,000 children were paralysed each year. Since 1979, Rotary and its partners have vaccinated 3 billion children,

Maggie Vaccinating Baby

saving an estimated 13 million from paralysis. Polio has been reduced by 99.9% and in 2016 there were only 47 cases in the world, 20 in Pakistan, 13 in Afghanistan and 4 in Nigeria. We are nearly there, but polio cannot be declared extinct until there has been no case in any country for at least five years. So the vaccination campaign must continue or there is a real danger that polio will return to countries that are currently polio free.

After a briefing session in Delhi, David & Maggie were part of a group of 20 Rotarians from all over the UK went to a town called Bhiwadi, which is in the province of Rajasthan, South-West of the Indian Capital. Bhiwadi has four very active Rotary Clubs and the visiting Rotarians were given a magnificent welcome and enjoyed outstandingly generous hospitality throughout the visit. Bhiwadi is a rapidly expanding industrial town with the typical extremes of wealth & poverty in very close proximity with each other. The NID programme uses live polio vaccine, which is administered from a dropper into the mouth, so the Rotarians were able to carry out the vaccinations.

Maggie with local children

On Sunday 29th January, this year's NID, David & Maggie with their colleagues split up into small groups and carried out vaccinations in four of the poorest parts of the town and one more affluent area. Each area had a number of vaccination booths, manned by local health workers where the vials of vaccine were kept in cooled containers. The initial plan was that the UK Rotarians would take advantage of their unusual appearance (for the locals) and

David Vaccinating Baby

their bright yellow shirts to attract attention and lead the children and their parents to the vaccination booths. This worked to an extent, but the visitors developed a more effective plan. They divided up into teams of four, one with the vaccine, one with the purple marker pen to mark the little finger of those who had had the vaccine, one with the small gifts for those who had the vaccine, mainly pens etc. The final member of the team went ahead to attract attention and try to communicate with the young children, their older siblings or parents. In this way we attracted large numbers onto the street and the rest of the team vaccinated them as we moved through the areas.

This approach proved equally effective in a refugee camp on the edge of town that was visited on the next day as part of the follow up campaign. In spite of the extreme conditions, all the people they met gave the visitors a warm and enthusiastic welcome. Their presence did have a very positive impact on the numbers vaccinated. In one area, the local health worker had vaccinated about 30 children before the rotary group arrived. One hour or so later, over 400 had received the vaccine, most of it directly from a Rotarian. David and Maggie fell in love with India and the Indians during the trip and have already expressed interest in taking part in next year's NID.

What is dementia?

Club President Chris Wick thanks Paul Gibbons for his informative talk on dementia and Admiral Nurses

Rotary Club members had the pleasure of meeting Paul Gibbons from Dementia UK at a recent club meeting. Paul explained that dementia is a broad umbrella term used to describe a range of progressive neurological disorders. There are many different types of dementia and some people may present with a combination of types. Regardless of which type is diagnosed, each person will experience their dementia in their own unique way.

Paul highlighted that Dementia UK offer specialist one-to-one support and expert advice for people living with dementia through their world class Admiral Nurses who work hand in hand with families, helping them cope with the fear, uncertainty and difficult everyday reality of dementia.

Currently there are 180 Admiral Nurses in the UK They are registered nurses, and have significant experience of working with people with dementia before becoming an Admiral Nurse. Most Nurses work for the NHS in communities, helping people with dementia to stay at home for longer. They also work in other settings, including care homes, hospitals and hospices. In this area we are lucky with an Admiral Nurse working at Hinchingbrooke Hospital.

Every 1st – 8th March Dementia UK asks friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to get together to fund raise by making "Time for a Cuppa". By brewing baking and having a natter you can help them be there for people who need their support.

To register your interest call **020 7697 4052** or email their head tea lady: **sarah.chambers @dementiauk.org**

Dementia UK
Improving quality of life

Fenland Spitfire excavation

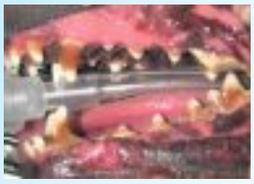
Anthony Haskins, archaeologist at Oxford Archaeology East, visited Ramsey Rotary Club to talk about X4593 – the Holme Fen Spitfire that crashed whilst on a routine training flight on 22 November 1940 into the wooded area near to Holme Fen. The pilot, Pilot Officer Harold E. Penketh sadly died when the aircraft crashed. Anthony talked about the unusual and challenging excavation that took place in 2015.

The aircraft, a Mk 1 Spitfire, was from 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron at RAF Wittering. Pilot Office Penketh took off on a routine training mission with three other aircraft of the squadron to carry our high altitude intercept exercises. During the climb to altitude the aircraft departed from the formation over Holme Lode and crashed into the ground.

Anthony's talk included photographs, maps and diagrams of the site together with details the daily dig progress of the weeklong excavation. RAF Wyton Pathfinder Collection received the excavated items into storage.

Stephen Macaulay and Anthony Haskins, Oxford Archaeology East; Peter Masters, Cranfield University enjoy the good weather at the dig.

Does their breath smell bad?
Are their gums red, inflamed or bleeding?
Have they started drooling excessively?
Will they only eat soft food or have difficulty eating?
Do your pet's teeth look like this?



All are signs of dental problems. A shocking 80% of pets over the age of 3 years old have signs of dental disease.

They should look like this….

Most commonly our pets suffer from bacterial infection and its complications (the fancy word is "periodontal disease"). It affects the gums, teeth and surrounding bone. The bacteria originates from plaque build-up. Plaque is a mixture of bacteria and proteins derived from saliva and food which naturally accumulate in the mouth where it sticks to the teeth. It can be easily removed, but after 48 hours the plaque calcifies and becomes a grey or brown hard substance called tartar (which is difficult to remove). The bacteria and tartar build up cause the gums to inflame (gingivitis) and recede, where it progresses to infection and destruction of the tooth socket. This damage is irreversible and painful, often leading to losing the tooth.

Did you know this bacteria can get into the blood stream and affect the rest of the body (including major organs)? The persistent low grade trickle of bacteria into the bloodstream from an infected mouth can exacerbate, or at least contribute to, many other illnesses such as heart disease and liver and kidney problems.

So looking after our pet's teeth is more than just avoiding bad breath!

What can you do about it?

In the early stages any discomfort can be reversed and damage prevented by removing the plaque. This is done most effectively by daily brushing, but there are also special foods, chews and supplements that can help.

In the later stages of periodontal disease, professional Veterinary treatment is necessary. Under general anaesthetic, the Vet can remove tartar (including cleaning below the gumline where bacteria also accumulates) both by hand and by using ultrasonic cleaning equipment. The Vet can also remove any painful and damaged teeth. If you are worried about your pet's dental health or want to know more about dental products and toothbrushing, visit our website or phone us on 01487 814789.

WARNING Be sure to use Veterinary approved toothpaste - human toothpaste often contains xylitol which is poisonous to dogs and fluoride which can be harmful to both cats and dogs.

Tooth brushing tips

- Get your pet used to having their face handling – rub and stroke your pet's face around the mouth regularly – don't forget to reward them with play or a small treat. Repeat daily for at least 5 days.
- Start by using your fingertip with a little pet toothpaste. Keeping your pet's mouth closed, begin with the canine teeth and work backwards down the inside of their cheeks. Do this gradually over the course of a few sessions. For now ignore the inside surface of the teeth and the small incisor teeth at the front, they are often the most difficult.
- Once your pet is happy with this, start to include the incisor teeth in your routine.
- Progress to a specially designed toothbrush when your pet is comfortable with the finger brushing.
- You may now also include the inside surfaces of the teeth when they are used to the toothbrush.
- Start young – it is generally better accepted. BUT it's never too late – older pets can learn too.
- Be patient – it's a strange sensation for our pets and it takes time for them to accept.
- ONLY use Veterinary approved toothpaste.

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A NEW YORK SHORT BREAK

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- **The Bronx.**
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- **Queens.**
- **Manhattan.**
- **Staten Island.**

Of these Manhattan is the place to go for a New York Short Break, particularly for the first time visitor. There is plenty to see and do in New York, it is a great city to visit, regardless of the time of year. But be aware it can get very very cold in the winter, so wrap up well.

There are so many iconic sites to visit on your New York Short Break, from the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Centre, Central Park, 9/11 Memorial and Freedom Tower. Plus museums galore, from Guggenheim to Museum of Modern Art to American Museum of Natural History, to Metropolitan Museum to Ellis Island plus many any more.

In Greenwich Village, on the west side of Lower Manhattan is New York's bohemian capital, you can find the best restaurants, parks and attractions. Little Italy offers tasty authentic pasta dishes at some lovely Italian restaurants. The food is not the only draw, some of the trendiest clothing stores in the city are located on Mulberry Street, not to mention some of the best bars. Midtown Chelsea is the contemporary art district, home to the Gagosian Gallery and Gladstone Gallery. The Lower East Side is now one of Manhattan's most fashionable neighbourhoods, with a range on indie boutiques and restaurants. Upper East Side is where you will find deluxe boutiques and designer stores. Take a walk through Chinatown and you will think you've come to a different country. Here you can find cuisine of almost every part of mainland China and Hong Kong, plus Indonesian, Malaysian, Thai and Vietnamese. Plus some of the best jewellery and gift shops. Hell's Kitchen originally an Irish mob dominated neighbourhood, is today the site of about a dozen gay bars and New York's first luxury "straight-friendly" hotel, The Out NYC, which houses the sprawling XL Nightclub, Cabaret and Lounge.

In the evening take a walk round Times Square, lit with advertising slogans. It's big, bright and unforgettable. It is a main junction filled with popular retailers. Then why not take in a show on Broadway. Broadway runs 13 miles through Manhattan and 2 miles through the Bronx and is the oldest north–south main thoroughfare in New York City. The great majority of shows on Broadway are musicals. There are 41 professional theatres with 500 or more seats, so the re is a show for everyone.

There is an abundance of hotels and restaurants in New York and with it's grid system it is very easy to get around. The subway makes it even easier to get from one end to the other. So next time you are wanting to go away for a few days, consider a New York Short Break.

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Plenty to look forward to in the Women's Institute section this month. Learn about Green Hearts, have some creative fun, and enjoy a nice meal with the women of the WI.

Ramsey St. Mary's WI

The members of Ramsey St. Mary's WI have been busy collecting supplies to go to a school in Sierra Leone set up by local retired head teacher David Wallwork. On visiting the area in 2005 he realised many children were unable to access education without a walk of at least 2 hours to the nearest school. On his return he used family money to get the scheme started. The school is situated 36 miles from Freetown and provides academic learning and practical skills training. It is now run by a trust and fund raising is provided by his family, numerous friends, many organisations including several local Rotary Clubs and one in Norway. The school opened in 2008 with 170 pupils. It now takes 300+ pupils and is open in the evenings to adults. David and helpers go out frequently to train teachers, provide supplies and do maintenance and building work.

A container full of goods is on its way to the school and David will be there, with two retired head teachers, when it arrives. Sylvia Abblitt, a member of Ramsey St. Mary's WI, will join them along with David's wife (retired teacher), daughter (pharmacist), and Mike Holden from Ramsey Mereside, who is a frequent visitor and helper of the school. Sewing machines and craft materials were shipped to the school last November and Silvia will teach craft work, sewing etc. during her visit. For several years Sylvia worked for Cambridgeshire County Council as a handcraft teacher for the disabled so she is looking forward to seeing what can be created with the materials available on the old, hand sewing machines.

The individual members of Ramsey St. Mary's WI particularly wanted to donate items that would be of use to women and have therefore donated a selection of bras and sanitary products. We look forward to hearing more about the school on Sylvia's return.

To find out more visit: www.thedavidschool

Abbey WI - FEBRUARY REPORT

Abbey W.I. were greatly looking forward to their February speaker, Major Catherine Wyles from the Salvation Army divisional headquarters in Kettering, and we were not disappointed. Catherine's engaging personality had us all enthralled as she described the beginnings of the Salvation Army by William Booth, a Methodist lay preacher in the depths of Industrial revolution London amongst the poorest in society who sought brief comfort in the gin and ale houses which were so prevalent.

Catherine concentrated her talk on women in the Army beginning with William's wife Catherine Mumford who although not widely educated was taught to read and write by her mother whilst she was bed-ridden during childhood. Catherine had read the bible through 16 times in one year! Though not a natural orator at the beginning Catherine's confidence grew and an untapped ability was discovered. Because people on the margins of society would not enter a conventional church, services were first held in tents and then Music halls which is one of the reasons that the Army's hymns are so strident and forceful.

Lovely voice

Catherine Wyles had a lovely voice and illustrated her points on several occasions by singing well known Salvation Army hymns. Often after signing "The Pledge" reformed young girls of 16 went to preach in the music halls; they were dubbed the "Hallelujah Lasses" and were responsible for spreading the movement over the British Isles. The Salvation Army is active in 128 countries and is the biggest care and support group in this country relied upon by the Government. The well known Salvation Army bonnets are now not required to be worn as part of the uniform but Catherine had brought a couple along for members to try on, which they did with a good deal of hilarity. The style has changed over the years; they were made from hardened straw and originally had the large peak designed to protect the wearers face were any missiles thrown at them! Each hat cost £75 so was a treasured possession.

A thoroughly inspirational talk which the members greatly enjoyed. The competition was "your best value item for 50p" and was judged by Major Wyles. Susan Avery came first with a Kath Kitson find of a 50p purse and Margaret Brown was second.

Joan's 95th Birthday tea

A high spot of Abbey W.I.'s January calendar is our now annual invitation to join a member for a birthday tea and chat in her daughter's home. Always a glorious occasion made even more so as we celebrated Joan's 95th birthday this year! A remarkable lady who has been a staunch member of the W.I. A bouquet of flowers from the members was presented to Joan and a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday was sung.

You may remember that last month I wrote a little about the 6 short-listed resolutions for this year's National AGM. These have now all been counted at Huntingdon headquarters and the one voted to be the most popular was "Keep micro-plastic fibres out of the oceans" closely followed by "Alleviating loneliness". These results will be sent to London and collated with all the other Federations and an overall winner will emerge. We will learn about this in April at a special resolution meeting at Sawtry. Quite a process but necessary to keep everything democratic.

Next month's speaker Linda Thackray will talk on working with a rare breed "Suffolk Punches" and the competition is an "old toy".

How about coming along to join us and see what the W.I. has to offer you, a warm welcome awaits you.

For further information please contact Karen Prestage on 01487 813848

Ramsey WI

Friday 10th February was another busy morning at the Community Hall for Ramsey WI; serving tea and coffee and large slices of cake. I've noticed that very few of our guests bother with the biscuits, most go straight for the cake. Coffee and walnut, Chocolate, Carrot cake, Victoria sponge and this month we even had a Whiskey cake on the menu.

February's was the first of our planned "Bring and Buy" stalls; a great way to clear out those unwanted Christmas presents, remember one woman's rubbish is another woman's treasure.

Beetle Drive

At our Monthly meeting we had a Beetle Drive, having never driven beetles before I was surprised how quick the game was played, and as no skill is required it's often the speed of the dice throwing that leads to a winner. Needless to say the beetles being drawn would never win any art prises.

Chat and craft for the crafty and chatty is on the third Tuesday of the month at the home of one of our members also on the third Tuesday is Book Worms, a chance to maybe read a book beyond your comfort zone and discuss it, all with tea and biscuits. The next coffee morning is Friday 10th March, lots more delicious cake on offer and another "Bring and Buy" stall.

On Monday 13th March Ramsey WI are having a talk on "Estate Planning" by Keith Rooney, when we hope we'll be told how to avoid the tax man getting his hands on any more of our hard earned cash.

Visit us at Ramsey Community Hall at 7.30, a warm welcome to all women plus the tea and biscuits.

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Discover your local university

When choosing which university to go to it is really important to visit before you apply. After all, you will be spending three years studying there so you need to feel that it is the right for you. University Centre Peterborough (UCP) is located in the heart of Peterborough and have Open Days where you can discover what is on offer.

Find out more about the courses

At the Open Days there will be course lecturers and activities for all of the courses available. There are 30 courses to choose from, which include business, accounting, computing, engineering, construction, English literature, media and journalism, performing arts, bioscience, sports coaching, education and childcare, social sciences, criminology, public services, archaeology and much more. If you are undecided about which route to take, you can gain a better understanding on which is best suited to you and what you will achieve at the end of it. Find out what you will be learning, if the course will help with your career path and what previous graduates are now doing.

See the facilities and speak to students

Attending university is not just about choosing the right course to suit you, it is also important to find out about the facilities on offer to you. Current students will show you around the modern campus and be available to give you a chance to hear what they think of the university. They are more than willing to help answer any questions about student life and give a different perspective about their courses and how studying at UCP has benefited them.

Get help with finance, applications and accommodation

The admissions and student support teams will be available to explain how to apply, what finance you are entitled to, help with student welfare and discuss student accommodation. There are free information talks about student finance where you will find out that tuition fees at UCP are £1,500 lower than other universities for full time undergraduate courses and that there are £500 cash rewards on offer to help with studies.

Who can attend to Open Day?

Everyone is welcome to attend whether you are starting university in September 2017 or in September 2018. Each year, the university centre attracts an equal mix of both mature students and school leavers so all students feel comfortable. Family and friends are encouraged to come with you as their impressions are just as important to help you make an informed choice.

When are the Open Days?

University Centre Peterborough have Open Days on Wednesday 15th March (5.30pm to 8pm) and Tuesday 5th June (5.30pm to 8pm). There is free parking for visitors on the university campus. For more information or to book your place on the Open Day please visit www.ucp.ac.uk

BIG NEW STORE - RIGHT NEXT DOOR!

Hunting and Shooting Sports, one of a number of successful start-up businesses located on the Great Whyte, is expanding into the adjoining commercial unit and getting ready to offer new products and services to the Ramsey area.

The store, which originally opened in 2011, has been steadily growing for a number of years due to its wide range of in-store products and a thriving online business, dispatching sales across the UK.

The outlet will now occupy two separate units, with a connecting door allowing access in between. As well as additional space for new merchandise, the area includes for changing rooms and another counter. Most of the shooting products, such as shotguns, air rifles and ammunition, is expected to remain in the original store, where it is securely stored.

Having enjoyed a bumper Christmas, proprietor Jason Pereira said "I'm looking forward to the challenge of taking on a larger store, but I don't feel like I have denied a new outlet."

"We've been in a position to expand for some time, and when Carousel went on the market we jumped at the chance! With the extra space secured, we can offer a much wider range of products such as clothes and accessories that should appeal to a much wider selection of people in Ramsey".

Jason also thanked his customers for their continued loyalty to the store, saying "Our local customers have been very supportive throughout. Plenty of people have been nipping in to take a look when we put the new door in, and I hope they will continue to support us when the new area opens officially"

The expansion comes as one of several new additions to the business, including a brand new website designed to make it easier to access the thousands of available products online. However, Jason is always looking for the next challenge. "Obviously, there's still more we would like to do", he says, "such as a gun range or similar, but for now we are happy with the store. We won't be leaving Ramsey anytime soon".

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BUSINESS

Casual Workers...

If you engage staff on zero hours contracts who are genuinely casual workers, then you must remember that they still have some employment rights. Casual staff are defined as workers, not employees or self-employed individuals, and workers do have some limited employment rights, so don't get caught out by thinking if they are not employed you don't have to worry.

So what rights do casual workers have?

Holiday

Casual workers accrue holiday every time they work for you at the same statutory minimum rate as employees. Because casual workers usually don't have guaranteed hours, the best way to work this out is based on 12.07% of however many hours they've worked. You must either allow them to physically take holiday, or pay them in lieu of holiday accrued at the end of a period of work. You can't just increase their hourly rate and say it's holiday pay...

Minimum Wage

Casual workers must be paid the appropriate National Minimum Wage rate for their age.

Tax and NI contributions

You must pay tax and National Insurance contributions for casual workers where their earnings warrant this, in the same way as for employees.

Sick pay

If a casual worker meets the requirements for Class 1 National Insurance contributions, they would qualify for statutory sick pay.

Discrimination

Casual workers are protected against discrimination under the Equality Act if they are treated less favourably because of a protected characteristic.

Deductions from earnings

Casual workers have the same protection against unlawful deductions from earnings as your employed staff.

Working time regulations

Casual workers are still protected by the Working Time Directive in terms of maximum hours worked and entitlement to rest breaks.

Health and safety protection

Your obligations and liability for health and safety in respect of casual workers is the same as for employed staff.

Whistleblowing protection

Casual workers are protected in the same way as employees if they want to make a qualifying disclosure under Whistleblowing legislation.

If you need HR advice in your business, do get in touch.

For more information contact
dawn.cross@face2facehr.com
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What should I expect from my Accountant?

Choosing an accountant for your business is an important decision, and as with so many areas of our lives technology is leading the way and increasing the value you should be receiving.

At Pavilion Accountancy we believe that accountants are ideally placed to make a huge difference to businesses, and business owners' lives. However, it is only by working in certain ways that this is possible.

Here are 3 things we think you should be receiving at the very least from your accountant.

1 They help you work effectively & collaborate in real time with you

There is now secure, business friendly accounting software available to use over the internet via your normal web browser. By using software, such as Xero, you can raise sales invoices anywhere you have an internet connection, on a laptop, tablet or smart phone.

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Software, such as ReceiptBank, automates your bookkeeping and stores the information securely on-line as per HMRCs requirements. Bookkeeping becomes as easy as taking a photo on your phone!

The beauty of 'cloud' software is that your accountant can also access your accounts. Working collaboratively, using real time financial information means you can make more informed decisions quicker. Sharing this with your accountant means they can provide exact and valuable advice based on real time information.

We work collaboratively with all our business customers using real-time accounting information.

2 They help you know & understand your Business Financial Performance (each month!)

How soon do you know the profit for your financial year? 3 months after the year end? 6 months? 9 Months?!?!?!?

We believe that every business should know its exact profit & cash position for each month and for the year so far at the end of EVERY month.

After all, how can you influence the profit of your business 9 months after the year has finished? Not only can you do absolutely nothing about that year, but you will also be 9 months through the current year and have only 3 months left to remedy any issues. What a missed opportunity.

That's why we provide a monthly performance report to every business. This gives us the opportunity to identify any possible issues before they become big problems.

Could your business benefit from having this information every month?

3 They are open on Support, Fees and Guarantees

Is all email & telephone support included in the price quoted? Have they even quoted a price or is your bill a complete surprise at the end of the year? And what service guarantees are in place?

It seems obvious really, we don't go shopping for a new car and then receive a bill from the salesman for him answering some basic questions. Likewise we don't receive the keys, drive off and then receive a bill for more than we were expecting… and heaven forbid should the car 'go wrong' we would expect there to be a warranty or guarantee to protect us.

Why should it be any different for you as a business owner?

Pavilion Accountancy provide inclusive support and fixed up-front as standard for all customers.

There are plenty of other areas to think of, but at a very minimum these are 3 we believe you should expect as standard from your accountant.

To find out more on how Pavilion Accountancy can help your business please call 01487 898440 or email nick.kay@pavilionaccountancy.co.uk

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This month we welcome a new regular contributor to our very popular business section. Dean Crago is the director of Inspired Commercial Services Ltd, who are based in Ramsey.

If you would like further information regarding how to challenge or if you might be eligible then do not hesitate to contact me. As always, this is a free service.

dean@inspired-ltd.co.uk
07929205661

BUSINESS RATES 2017 REVALUATION. ARE YOU AFFECTED?

There has been a great deal of discussion recently in the national media regarding business rates revaluation.

Business rates are the fees levied by the government on most non-domestic properties. Revaluation occurs every 5 years when the government adjusts the value of business rates to reflect changes in the property market. The next revaluation will be implemented this coming April (England and Wales).

While draft figures were released last September many business are only now realising the impact the new rates are going to have on them. Where rates have increased significantly it could result in considerable financial difficulties.

If rateable values have been applied incorrectly by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) business owners can look to challenge their new liability.

The Federation of Small Businesses and others have been lobbying the Government for some time about the need to make the system fairer, especially for smaller businesses. In response the government states it will look at ways to help the worst affected companies with a further announcement likely to be during the forthcoming Budget.

Alan Watson, Head of Rating at leading commercial property consultancy Rapleys says, "Much of the current noise from the Government and the Valuation Office is driven by the number of appeals on the current rating list, and the frustration that time and money is squandered over those appeals which don't actually secure a reduction for businesses. While undoubtedly, a small portion of this is down to a few bad eggs lodging frivolous appeals, the bigger issue is that it is fundamentally impossible for legitimate advisers and businesses to get information about the make-up of a rating assessment without lodging an appeal. The new Check, Challenge, Appeal system was supposed to keep the number of appeals down and increase transparency. The Check stage may improve knowledge of the facts, but the Challenge stage puts businesses back to square one, with the crucial rental data still nigh on impossible to come by."

If you are concerned about your revaluation you should make an enquiry under the 'check' stage. There should never be a charge for an initial consultation with the relevant specialist.

MARKETING PRESENTATION IN SAWTRY

By Joan Richardson

It's not often that I would write about anything other than Link4Coffee but I think this is an opportunity not to be missed. Stephanie Taylor is vice chair of Sawtry Small Business Partnership and she's invited me to hear Chris Billington Hughes speak about marketing. I'm going and I hope you'll join me. If you'd like more information either contact Steph or ralph.maloney@ssbpartnership.org

Here's what she's told me...."This is an event for business owners that's not to be missed, if you want to grow and develop your business then this should be one for your diary. Sawtry Small Business Partnership would like to announce the attendance of Chris Billington Hughes from Marketing Wizdom to speak at our next meeting on the 7th March."

Chris spent 3 years as trainer and speaker in and around Washington DC. In the mid 1990'S he was part of Results Corporation delivering coaching and marketing services to a wide range of businesses. In 2011 set up his own Consultancy before joining Robert Clay as Director of Marketing Wizdom. For over 20 years Chris has helped 100's of companies identify hidden profit opportunities. Their slogan is ….Teaching Entrepreneurs WHAT to do…. and exactly HOW to do it.

The meeting is open to all and is totally free of charge, contact ralph.maloney@ssbpartnership.org to advise of your attendance.

7th March, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start at Sawtry Club, 10 Gidding Rd, Sawtry, Huntingdon PE28 5TS."

I hope to see you there.

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FSB MEMBERS ENJOY A DAY AT THE RACES

Members of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) from across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire enjoyed networking with a difference at the Cottenham Races, Point to Point on Saturday (February 11)

The networking event was organised by Huntingdonshire branch chairman Malcolm Lyons and sought to combine a fun day out with a chance to network with like-minded small businesses. FSB also sponsored the Cambridgeshire Men's open race.

Malcolm said: "The region is inundated with networking events which follow a similar format, we wanted to do something a little different for a change. Even though it was a chilly day, our members were able to do stay warm in a private room and enjoy hot soup and sandwiches during the event and chat to other small business owners."

Des Downey, FSB committee member for the Greater Cambridge branch said: "It was great to support countryside, small businesses through sponsorship of the race and we were able to fly the FSB flag. It was a good day out on a bracing winter's day, but we were well wrapped up."

As experts in business, FSB offers members a wide range of vital business services, including advice, financial expertise, support and a powerful voice in Government. Its aim is to help smaller businesses achieve their ambitions. For further information about FSB events in the region, which are usually open to non-members, go to: www.fsb.org.uk/bedscambsherts

Bury Parish Council

Peter Hazell - *Chairman*

February's meeting was attended by 8 Parish Councillors including our County Councillor,1 District Councillor and 1 member of the public.

The Police report (via Ecops) noted several incidents in the village. A burglary, a bicycle theft, young people again trespassing on the RAF Upwood site including a fire and 2 road traffic incidents due to ice.

There were further discussions concerning the proposed developments at both RAF Upwood and the Clinic site, but as yet there are no definite start dates. It is hoped that when work does finally begin the regular trespassing visits by young people will cease. A low fence is to be erected around the garden of rest at the cemetery and it was agreed to begin the preliminary work for the cemetery extension.

With regards to the large playing field and the proposed installation of adult gym equipment. A meeting with the equipment supplier has been held and it is hoped that installation will begin in the near future.

The two local highway projects have now been completed (restricting parking in Grenfell Road and traffic calming in Owls End), and the desired effect seems to have been achieved. Speeding traffic through the village, particularly Upwood Road, is a continuing problem as a number of children on their way to and from school have to cross this road and there seems to be an increase in the number of HGVs using this road. With this in mind Speedwatch still needs volunteers so if you are interested then Email csw@gmail.com.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st March at 7.30 pm in the village hall. And the AGM will also be on that date.

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Bury Neighbourhood Plan

By Lisa Schiavo

THE STORY SO FAR

Bury village neighbourhood plan began in May 2016. An able bodied crew was put together by Jeremy Mumford and we started this exciting process.

SO WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

It is a plan that uses community views and opinions to form a legal plan which sits alongside our local plan in order to protect and enhance our village.

SO WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

To date we have engaged the community through competitions at Bury school, a £100 prize winning survey and the commission of a bespoke banner that is currently situated opposite Bury Stores. We have spoken to local villagers at numerous events to encourage people to have their say.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Currently we are enlisting the help of Cambridgeshire Acre to undertake a more in depth demographic study of Bury Village.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We plan to collaborate with the other parishes who come under the district envelop in order to protect the land that straddles boundaries. Lark fleet homes have supplied us with a detailed map which highlights our parish boundary and the proposed areas of development highlighting brown and green sites.

We are running a fun guess the photo competition, further details and competition forms can be found on our website www.Buryvillagenp.co.uk Teams are encouraged to get together and guess from the photos where the places are.

Why not take time to have a walk around the village and explore and appreciate the characteristics for yourself. Winners of this competition will receive a wonderful prize hamper with prizes donated from local Bury businesses.

The prize draw will take place at Bury village halls 20th anniversary celebrations on Saturday 22nd April with events running all day culminating in a family disco.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We have a diverse committee but we are always looking for more support, if you would like to join us details can be found on our website.

Bury village is unique and OUR plan will help protect it.

BUSINESS BUILT ON PASSION

Before founding Nostalgia Photo Editing, Sarah Drawwater would strive to edit her own photos using standard programs such as Paint or Photo Gallery. Soon, she realised that not only had this become her passion but that, after adding some professional training and equipment, she had become extremely adept at it. Could she help others find a similar enjoyment in their own photographs?

On this thought, Nostalgia was born. Based in Bury, Sarah's aim is to help people get the best out of their own images, offering this unique service to a huge variety of clients both personal and professional. "We all have that photo that we love because of the memory that it captured but something is just not quite right. I can bring your image to life for you, allowing the image to claim 'that' prime spot on the wall."

Lifestyle Photography

Sarah has now been able to expand into similarly ethical and unobtrusive styles, becoming extremely proficient at Lifestyle Photography, which offers a chance to capture unique moments, photographing people and property in their own comfortable environments. The business now specialises in not only photo editing, but in Property Photography and Children's Lifestyle Photography also.

With this ethical approach to photography comes an equally fair pricing. "I believe in offering my clients a clear and easy pricing structure and the best value for money available to go with it", Sarah explains. "Therefore, unlike most photographers I do not charge a sitting fee and all of my photography packages include high resolution images as standard".

On-line Viewing Gallery

To this end, all Children's Photography packages include an 'On Location' photography session at a site of your choice and your own private on-line viewing gallery available within two days, allowing you to choose and order your pre-paid images, add additional images to your package if you can't choose between them and also arrange printing of your digital images if you want Sarah to do all the hard work for you.

Organic Images

Sarah attributes her success to her outlook, and her passion. "I love photographs, I love the memories that are retained within them. Whether my client's aim is based on a business or a personal need I strive to offer them a personable and bespoke service."

For further information call Sarah on 07584 245179 or email her at NostalgiaPhotoEditing@outlook.com. You can also visit the website at www.NostalgiaPhotoEditing.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF THE 3RD AGE

The University of the Third Age is one of Ramsey's most popular societies, being part of a larger national establishment. This month, they take a trip away from our town!

The Hidden Gem of Ramsey

By Enid Hubbard – Ramsey and District U3A

The Ramsey and District U3A invite a speaker each month to enlighten and entertain us. They come from a wide area and speak on many and varied subjects. However it is a real treat when we have 'one of our own' to visit us.

February was such a month when our very own local historian Clive Beeke came to talk about his life-long research on Ramsey Abbey with a talk entitled The Hidden Gem of Ramsey. Clive was born in Huntingdon at the old County Hospital. He lived there during his youth attending school in Huntingdon and in Wales where his mother's parents lived. He has lived in Ramsey for forty-eight years thirty of which he has spent researching the history of the Abbey. "From the first time I saw the ruins I wanted to know all about them" he told me.

Enthusiasm and knowledge

Now he has retired he has been able to devote more time to collate his research and put it into order. This has enabled him to give talks on both the Abbey and the tunnels under the Great Whyte to many of our local groups including the WI, Ladies Probus, The British Legion and the Upwood Local History Group. You would never know that he is not comfortable giving a talk because his enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject carries everyone along the journey he undertakes. Clive has read most of the books published on the Abbey as well as the scientific and archaeological digs that have been undertaken over the last few years.

When asked what was his favourite part of his research he answered quickly, "The original buildings for which there is no conclusive geophysic evidence as yet. Finding the outline of the original buildings and the size of the Abbey complex with its cloisters and dormitories would be the Holy Grail of my research." He added with a smile "But that's a mystery still waiting to be solved."

Ramsey Abbey's history starts way back before 969 AD and Clive plots its course from wooden building to magnificent Abbey through to its dissolution and eventual desecration and pillage in 1539. At the end of his talk every question was answered and his knowledge was impressive.

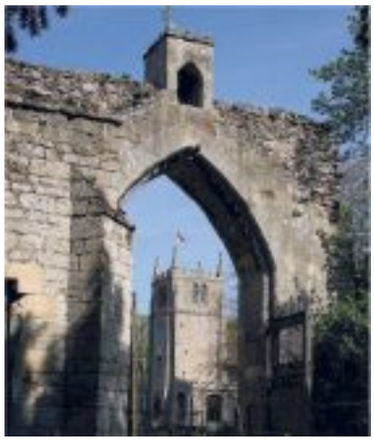
Website

Not content with writing his talks Clive also attended evening classes on website building so that he could build a site devoted to the Abbey and keep us all up-to-date with the research which you can find online.

The U3A had a very enjoyable afternoon learning about our history and what is still waiting to be uncovered. Over the next few months we have local speakers coming to update us about our buildings, countryside and the creatures that live around us. Please look on our website for details at www.ramseyu3a.org.uk.

If you are retired or semi-retired and would like to join us we meet at the Ramsey Community Centre in Stocking Fen Road at 2:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

We look forward to seeing you.



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New experiences for young people, thanks to our brilliant youth clubs

by Ben Jones

Hi everyone, it's been a few months since I last wrote for the Reporter. I'm pleased to be back telling you all about the recent trips the **BOSH** and **CRUNCH** clubs have been on during the school holidays.

On Tuesday 14th February I was able to attend the **BOSH** trip away from club as a volunteer helper. **BOSH** is for 5 to 10 year olds and their trip was to Bounce Indoor Trampoline Park in Peterborough. We were able to take packed lunches and set-up base in the party room. The whole group thoroughly enjoyed themselves but also gave some constructive criticism about how Bounce could expand the area for younger audiences. The trip was a great success as only two young people had been before so it was a new experience and was a blast for everyone.

The **CRUNCH** trip was later in the week and a bit further afield. We travelled on a minibus to SnoZone indoor skiing and snowboarding centre in Milton Keynes. The whole group had great fun! Only one of the young people had been before so again it was a new experience. I think the trainer could tell! We had a break for lunch and got some free time in the shopping centre before our final activity - sledging! The whole trip was really worthwhile and enjoyed by everyone, we're already planning to return. A big thank you to David our bus driver for his help on the day too.

Safe and Well visits for the elderly and vulnerable hit the 1,000 mark

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) have reached the 1,000 mark for Safe and Well visits, an initiative launched last Summer to support the safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable residents in the community.

Working with key partners, CFRS developed the Safe and Well model to offer a holistic approach to supporting people living in their own homes.

Building on the previous work of Home Fire Safety Checks, the Safe and Well visit encompasses a range of other areas including preventing falls in the home, monitoring alcohol use and consumption, staying well, warm and nourished at home and crime reduction including fraud and scams.

The Safe and Well visit now provides the Service with sufficient information to support individuals and, with consent, to refer individuals to selected partner agencies, who will be able to support them further.

Paul Clarke, Community Risk Manager at CFRS, said: "It is great to see the Safe and Well model having a positive impact on the lives of those living in our communities and empowering the most vulnerable to continue living independently with the support networks around them that they need access to, but may not have known existed prior to their visit.

"It is vitally important that people make referrals to us if they think someone they know, whether it be a loved one, a neighbour or a friend, could benefit from our completely free of charge service too".

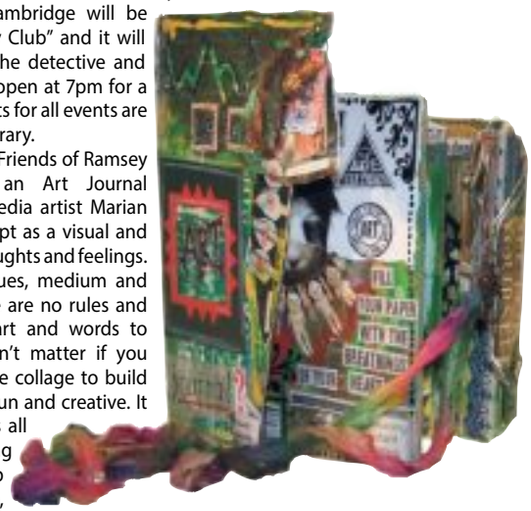
Ramsey library

Friends of Ramsey Library

Crime fiction is very popular and there are several authors based in Cambridgeshire writing about this area and other parts of East Anglia. As part of the Arts Alive programme, Ramsey Library and the Friends group are organising a crime fest during the month of March. Two local authors were due to visit Ramsey Library, but unfortunately the first has been cancelled due to illness. The second is Nicola Upson on Wednesday 15th March. I've just finished reading (and enjoying) her book "The Death of Lucy Kyte," set in Suffolk. Both events begin at 7pm and tickets are £3 for each. Annie James is giving a talk called "Bound for Botany Bay," about local people who were convicted of crime and transported to Australia. This will be on Tuesday 21st March at 2pm and again costs £3.

Finally, on Saturday 18th March there will be a Murder Mystery Evening to include a fish and chip supper, all for £10. The Strictlymurder group from Cambridge will be Finally, on Saturday 18th March there will be a Murder Mystery Evening to include a fish and chip supper, all for £10. The Strictlymurder group from Cambridge will be performing "The Comedy Club" and it will be your chance to play the detective and find the killer. Doors will open at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30. Tickets for all events are available from Ramsey Library.

On Saturday 1st April the Friends of Ramsey Library are arranging an Art Journal Workshop with mixed media artist Marian Savill. An art journal is kept as a visual and verbal record of ideas, thoughts and feelings. Lots of different techniques, medium and styles can be used. There are no rules and no mistakes. It's using art and words to express yourself. It doesn't matter if you can't draw, as you can use collage to build up the visual aspect. It's fun and creative. It costs £20, which includes all materials. You must bring your own lunch or pop out for a quick sandwich, but hot drinks are provided. It runs from 10.15-3.15 and the group will be small so Marian has time to help everyone. Tickets can be bought from the library, hope to see you there.



2017 is the CRW Year of the SID

By David McCandless, Founder and Managing Director of Community Roadwatch

In 2016, Community Roadwatch (UK) CIC (CRW) – a volunteer-staffed, not-for-profit Community Road Safety limited company whose quantitative results are published on its website - discretely monitored the speed of 35,000 vehicles in 230 sessions over 23 villages and recorded 12,000 speeding (34%). That's far too high a number and with speeds of up to 86 mph in our 30 zones, unacceptable and beyond the capability of most amateur Speedwatch teams to 'catch', for a letter. Don't take my word for it, just ask the residents (the victims) who call on CRW for help and who support our activities.

So, we are having to think 'outside the box' and enlist the help of the majority of drivers themselves to be our calming influence. This is the responsible, compliant majority that is the most influential asset we can utilise by getting them as 'the car in front' to travel at the limit. Everyone tends to speed because not everyone drives watching the speedo and in today's sound-proofed vehicles unless you do that there is little sensation of actual speed. To address unintentional speeding by responsible drivers (most of it is), it takes but a quick reminder from a Vehicle Activated Sign or even wheelie bin sticker or unattended Speedwatch sign, for the message to get positive results.

There are those, however, who will not slow for these indicators because their actual speed is not seen by anyone in vehicles behind or pedestrians/residents to the side, and therefore they know that they cannot be accused of anything definite. However, when their actual speed is displayed, as with a Speed Indicating Device (SID (rather than a VAS that paints the whole queue of traffic with the same stigma so there is no effect) trials have shown that many drivers who would not have slowed for a VAS, do slow for a SID especially if there are witnesses and peer pressure kicks in.

Consequently, to harness that peer pressure 'force for good', 2017 has been kicked-off for CRW with the help of Cllr Steve Criswell, with the fixed installation of a Mick George-sponsored Westcotec Speed Indicating Device (SID) in Colne Rd, Colne.

A Speedwatch-initiated, Police 'Black Box' 24/7 survey in Colne Rd in Mar 2011 found that 62% of outbound vehicles were seriously speeding with an average speed of 37 mph. In just one week, the SID had exceeded expectations by reducing that to 30% technically speeding with an average speed of 28 mph. 'The SID-effect' will continue and is mainly due to peer-pressure because now veryone can see who the real speeders are and no one wants to be identified as that speeding 'anti-social' element that everyone complains about at Parish Council meetings. Also, now, commercial vehicles that are speeding can be and are being reported back to companies by CRW RATS (Residents Against Traffic Speeding) with pinpoint accuracy and very proactive results.

This SID was a generous personal gift by Mick George to the Somersham and Colne residents along this stretch of very busy road. Now, according to the grateful residents themselves, it is contributing massively to their safety and to that of pedestrians and other road users alike not to mention the significant reduction it has had on noise, pollution and vibration especially as Mick George lorries now travel at a maximum speed of only 20 mph with other companies also following that example when approached.

In order to continue his investment in Community Road Safety, Mick George has just handed over a sponsored, battery-powered Mini-SID to CRW. This mini-SID will be attached, in turn, to a number of BBLP/CCC/Police-approved lampposts at CRW-surveyed speeding hotspots in supportive Cambs parishes for 2-3 weeks at a time to educate drivers about speed and to gather 24/7 data to share with Councils. Locations for this SID, once it has completed its time in Chatteris Rd, Somersham during March 17, will include locations in CRW-supportive parishes.

Pencilled in for the Warboys/Ramsey Area, and pending Parish approval, is: Fenton Rd, Warboys (in April) where 90% speeding and speeds of up to 86 mph have been recorded, Uggmere Court Road, Ramsey Heights and Ramsey St Marys (40) where northbound speeds of up to 87 mph have been recorded heading towards the bridge junction and where residents hope one day soon to see a Police camera van operating in support of their efforts to quantify the problem. We will also be installing the SID in turn in Herne Rd, Ramsey St Mary's (30) near the shop where speeds (north and south bound) in excess of 50 mph have been recorded across the village shop frontage.

Joe Gossage, Transport Manager at Mick George Ltd, has recently spoken about the good work of CRW, saying "Businesses have a responsibility to ensure the safety of local communities and at Mick George Ltd we place great emphasis on Road Safety. We invest time and resources year-on-year to help drive home these vital messages to those with whom we share the roads and with our wider communities. This begins in Primary Schools with campaigns aimed specifically at our youngest road users and carries through to Secondary Schools and Colleges.

The initial results from the SIDs are very promising and we are really pleased with the positive impact they are having for the well-being of local residents. In the future, it is CRW's hope that the application of SIDs will become accepted as a reasonably cheap 1st stage non-obstructive option for County traffic calming initiatives to make 2017 'The Year of the SID' for everyone.

Chris Spinks of Westcotec Ltd handing over the SID to Community Roadwatch

Students from Abbey College take a BITE from the Big Apple

Abbey College Sixth Form students studying Business, IT and Economics (also known as BITE) were given the opportunity to visit New York during their February half term.

The students visited the city to learn more about how the sectors of marketing, finance and business work within one of the most dynamic cities in the world.

Alex Thompson, Teacher of Business and Economics at the College, said: "This is the first time the BITE department has offered an overseas residential and it was an amazing experience for both students and staff. The students were outstanding ambassadors for the College and within a short space of time they were able to learn a great deal.

"Seeing how theories they have learnt about in class can be translated into the real world is an important aspect of the student's learning, preparing them for their exams later in the year. We will definitely look to repeat this trip for future students studying in our Sixth Form."

During the five day residential, students explored the Financial District, listened to a talk about Wall Street and visited the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. They also learnt about marketing at Macy's, the largest department store in the world, and put their theoretical learning into context by visiting Madison Square Garden to understand how it is able to run over 360 events a year.

On their jam-packed trip, the students also visited iconic attractions including the Empire State Building and Central Park. They also visited the 9/11 Memorial and the Barclays Centre to watch a basketball game.

Ready for the trip home

Students arrive in the financial district

Friends of Warboys Library

Booksale

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10 - 12

at the library

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT BOOK REVIEW

THE BONE WITCH

By Emily Bradley-Dorman

The Bone Witch by Rin Chupeco hits shelves March 7th and it is one of the most talked about YA releases of 2017. I was lucky enough to read it last month and this is what I had to say about it.

A young girl desperately claws at the ground and, lost in her grief, does the unimaginable. She brings her dead brother back to life and in hand sets herself onto a path no one could have imagined. The Bone Witch follows Tea as she discovers she has the power of necromancy, the rarest of form of magic, and it makes her potentially a very powerful Asha. Asha's are like witches, they have magic within them who through years of apprenticeship learn to hone their crafts. The use of runes to cast spells gave me vibes of the 'Shadowhunter' (which I LOVED) but here the marks dance through the air and on the ground in a unique and exciting manner rather than on the skin. Tea and her newly resurrected brother Fox are taken from their quiet lives and moved to the Willows to start Teas training. She has a level of power inside her the Asha have not seen in a long time - but can she use it to protect the ones she cares about?

As much as I did adore elements of this book it did have moments that irritated me. I have a rule that I judge all books in a series by. Does the book feel like a complete story on its own? I understand about leaving things unanswered but when you finish a book that feels half-baked you can't help being a little disappointed which is what happened here.

Overall, I'm giving this book 3 out of 5 because it has everything I'd expect a book like this to have and a little more. The issues I have with it are more irritations than flaws, as they distract from the story at times, but they don't make it bad! Yes, in my opinion, it needed a little more refinement but in the end I'm a strong believer that a good story can outweigh anything and the story of The Bone Witch is original and exciting.

FRAUD WATCH! It's a Scam!

Apple Gift Cards are put under the microscope in this month's Fraud Watch.

HMRC and Apple gift card fraud

In the hundreds of cases reported to Action Fraud since May last year, fraudsters have been continually requesting victims purchase Apple iTunes gift cards as a means of payment for cons involving Her Majesty Revenues and Customs (HMRC). Action Fraud has been working with Apple and HMRC to warn people about this type of fraud.

Fraudsters are using iTunes gift cards to collect money from victims because they can be easily redeemed and sold on. The scammers don't need the physical card to redeem the value and instead get victims to read out the serial code on the back over the phone to them.

The fraudsters are using the following contact methods to defraud people:

Voicemails: Fraudsters are leaving victims automated voicemails stating they owe HMRC unpaid taxes. When victims call back on the number provided, they are told that there is a warrant out for their arrest, unless they make payment via iTunes Vouchers.

Spoofed calls: Fraudsters are cold calling victims using a spoofed 0300 200 3300 number and convincing them that they owe unpaid tax to HMRC.

Text messages: Fraudsters are sending text messages requesting victims to urgently call back on the number provided. When victims call back, they are told that there is a case being built against them for an outstanding debt and they must pay immediately.

How to protect yourself

Be on the lookout and be aware of the following information:

- HMRC will never use text message to inform about a tax rebate or penalty.
- HMRC will never ask for any payment in the form of iTunes Vouchers.
- HMRC will only post out a P800 tax calculations, in circumstances of under or overpayment of taxes, if you're employed or get a pension.
- Payments using iTunes Vouchers may not be recoverable.
- Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should not trust the number you see on your telephone display as proving the caller is genuinely calling from HMRC.
- Be protective of divulging other personal details such as National Insurance number, passport number and bank details over the telephone.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Watch! Read! Listen!

ONE TO WATCH
Top Gear

Controversial right out of the gate… or should I say garage? Either way, bear with me here.

Yes, this isn't going to be the show we all used to look forward to – but nor will it be the one that forced many to turn the channel. Sure, the unsurpassable chemistry of the original hosts may be gone, but the BBC is far from flogging a dead horse with this irreverent series, with recent adverts blatantly ignoring health and safety standards in search of new material.

Plenty of fuss is being made about these features, which were always a staple of the show, and there has been almost no mention of the lack of Chris Evans, who quit at the end of the last series after lacklustre ratings. Expect plenty more bizarre mayhem with Matt LeBlanc literally at the wheel, with a few honest car reviews thrown in for those expecting… you know, a motoring show?

This comes at just the right time for the Beeb, with Clarkson, May and Hammond having just finished their first series on Amazon Prime and viewers hungry for more of the same. The question is, will the removal of Evans make the show, or simply lead viewers to find another reason to complain?

The new series starts Sunday March 4th on BBC 2 at 8PM

ONE TO READ
The Good Girlfriend's Guide to Getting Even

Yes, we go from wildly masculine to hilariously feminine with this hilarious, happy and heart-warming comedy from the mind of Anna Bell, who Goodreads describe as "the queen of romantic-comedy".

Told from the perceptive of Lexi, whose sport-mad boyfriend left her alone at her friend's wedding with food poisoning – that is until she sees a picture of him at a football game! Driven her to wild acts of sabotage and revenge, she inadvertently stumbles on a way to make him spend more time with her, and thus the fun begins…

Funny and feisty, Bell structures her work in such a way that you wouldn't be surprised to see it in the cinema soon, with a plot that would turn the head of Richard Curtis and a cast of characters that fit perfectly into the world she creates – a world that is not too far removed from our own.

Yes, this can get pretty chic-lit at times, so if you are looking for the next Hemmingway I would leave this on the shelf, but otherwise you have characters you can empathise with, a plot that borders on the believable, and more importantly a good old-fashioned laugh.

The Good Girlfriend's Guide to Getting Even is available online and in most chain bookstores.

ONE TO HEAR
Humans

As I write, Rag 'n' Bone Man's debut album is just starting a second week atop the album chart, having sold 69,000 combined units in the last seven days. Human, the album's title song, is still holding its own in the top five, while the artist himself is still enjoying his British Breakthrough success at last month's BRIT Awards. That's a pretty conclusive argument for a listen right there, but here's the rest of mine.

Human is a musical portmanteau of style that never fails to lack grace under pressure. Humans is sensational, with solid backup from the likes of Skin and Bitter End. As with the best of blues, the music comes from the heart, as the singer pours his soul into the mix and gives it a good stir, with the producers not afraid to pull in gospel backing singers, vinyl crackers and piano tunes to keep things moving.

It's not the most upbeat of albums, with several tunes seemingly referencing the untimely death of the artist, but it carries this off with gravitas and a strength of both voice and character.

Finally, you can't help but like the Bright-on-based artist. He was inspired by Outcast, and now blends hip-hop with blues. He sent around tapes of himself singing from the loo to producers. His nickname is even a nod to British classic 'Steptoe and Son'. As ever, it's great to see another chart-topping Brit, and well worth supporting his album.

Human is available to download online or buy in CD or Vinyl now.

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Upwood BSA Meets

ONCE A MONTH ON A SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CROSS KEYS PUB, UPWOOD.

Hi, my name is Dave Clough. I am the National Co-ordinator for the BSA Bantam Owners Club in the United Kingdom. Each month our regional members from Cambridgeshire and Rutlandshire meet late Sunday morning for a Bacon roll, and coffee at your local pub the Cross Keys in Upwood.

Due to its popularity, I've opened the invite to several local motorcycle clubs in the area. At our last dry meeting we had close to fifty bikes, and nearly 60 motorcyclists attend.

Classic bike scene

We're typically all over the age of wheeling up the high street and revving our bikes. We are a classic bike club, and our typical membership is over 50 years of age, so we meet to appreciate the classic bike scene. Many of our members are restoring motorcycles, be it in the shed, or even in the living room. We love nothing more than talking engines, gearboxes and routes travelled in times past.

On any dry Sunday your likely to see Royal Enfield's, Norton's, Ariel's, Triumphs, Vellocettes, and many other British bikes. Oh, and perhaps the odd Japanese bike!

Large car park

I chose Upwood for the local meet as this village pub has a large car park, a wide high street and of course the land lady, Hayley who always serves us a decent bacon roll and makes us feel very welcome.

As the word gets out over social media, and the Internet this coming summer the interest in this meet is likely to grow. We've already seen vintage motorcycles ride in from as far as Spalding, and as far south as North London. It's early days yet but I think were assured of this meet going from strength to strength.

Personal invitation

This is my personal invitation to any members of the village, or the surrounding area who may be interested in motorcycling to come and say hello. Many of you may have owned bikes at some time in the past, I got into motorcycling as I couldn't afford a car, I'm sure many of you will have fond memories of being on two wheels.

Well the thing about us bikers is that we like to talk bikes, and your all very welcome to come along, reminisce about the days of smelling of fuel, breaking down, pushing the thing home, or if your fortunate simply riding your bike. Were all a very friendly bunch, and always willing to talk bikes. Hayley does a mean bacon roll and the coffees not too bad either.

Hope to see you on a Sunday morning soon.

If anyone has any questions, then you can contact me on my personal site.

http://www.anotherflyonmyvisor.com

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BEREAVEMENT

Antony Thomas McArthur (Tony)

of Upwood

Sadly passed away after illness at home on Wednesday 15th February, 2017 Aged 80 years

Beloved brother of Alec and Malcolm Father to Michael, Richard and Rachel and loving grandad of Felisha and Tia

Special companion of Dawn and friend of Ray

Tony will never be forgotten. Funeral has taken place

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Mo	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.30 - 10.00	Private Use 10.00 - 11.00	Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 3.30	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30		Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00
Tu	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.00 - 11.00		Aquafit 11.05 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 4.00	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim 6.00 - 7.00	Lane Swim 7.00 - 8.00	Private Use 8.00 - 9.00
We	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.30 - 10.00	Aquanatal 10.05 - 10.55	Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Aquafit 12.05 - 12.55	Private Use 1.00 - 3.30	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Floats Fun 6.00 - 7.00	Aquafit 7.05 - 7.55	Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00
Th	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.00 - 10.30	Adult Lessons 10.30 - 11.30	Private Use 11.30 - 12.30	Adult Lanes 12.30 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 4.00	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30		Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00
Fr	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.30 - 11.00		Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 3.00	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Public Swim +1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30		Canoe Club 7.30 - 9.30
Sa	Early Birds 7.30 - 8.30	Junior Lessons 8.30 - 11.30			Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50	Floats Fun 1.00 - 3.00		Party Hire 3.00 - 3.50	Swimming pool closes at 3.50pm	
Su	Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00	Family Fun 9.00 - 11.00		Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50	Floats Fun 1.00 - 2.30		Public Swim + 1 Lane 2.30 - 3.45	Swimming pool closes at 3.45pm	

FITNESS CHALLENGE

Zero to 10k in 59 minutes...

This month, Adam takes to the road and starts to run, while adding to his weekly workout. Also, he finally understands the joy of running, if only a little!

While I have been working on this challenge since October, in January I took the next step and signed up for my first organised race, and ten kilometre run located in Rugby, of all places. Since then, I have been training with the day seemingly weeks away – before I knew it the date was upon me. That took place three days ago (February 26th). And what a day it was.

Last month, I waxed somewhat lyrically about pushing and testing yourself, finding that limit and then breaking through it. This month, I can confirm that it is one of the best feelings in the world.

I know this because of how I felt crossing the line after my first 10K (as us runners apparently call them). I decided not to do the full distance before hand, simply because in my mind there was a certain romance to completing my first actual 10k run on the day. In hindsight, not the best idea, but it made for a fantastic day!

On the day

I would like to think I was calm and composed on the start line – I was not. My fitbit reliably informs me my heartrate had been in the "ARGH what are you doing!" range for most of the morning, and stood amongst the crowds I was decidedly twitchy. My reasons were twofold; I had never attempted any distance more than 8km in training, and I had ignored my own advice and set a goal of under 1 hour, a good target for a first timer that I was almost certain I could not achieve.

There was no bang of a gun or whistle, just the vague sound of someone yelling into a megaphone and suddenly the crowd was off. The rest of my team, all more seasoned fitter runners, went on ahead as agreed, and I got to grips with ten kilometres of running, self-introspection and physical grit. Running on my own usually gives me time to think – all I could think that day was to ensure one foot kept going in front of the other.

They nearly didn't. There's no stigma attached to taking a walk in the middle of a 10K, and indeed many people I passed along the route did just that. I just couldn't let myself. Suddenly I was in a competition purely of my own, I wanted to not only finish this race but RUN it, make all the training matter, all the miles run and pounds lost given form by this success.

Around 7km, I gave up on my sub-1 hour goal and resolved just not to stop, to keep my feet running under me until the very end. At 9km, my mind practically shut down and all my thoughts focused on the finish line, which I could now just about see. And then, around four meters from the end, the clock came into view. 59 minutes. Under an hour. I actually punched the air! Several times in fact… My fellow runners later informed me they had never seen quite that much raw happiness going over a finish line. I couldn't believe it… I had done it. My eventual time – 58:52. That hour mark wasn't even close… I found all this out later - I was busy collapsing on the ground for a little while.

I also discovered later that last kilometre had been my fastest – I didn't care. I had thoroughly beaten myself, and for the first time in my life achieved something I genuinely thought I would never be able to do. That feeling is worth a thousand painful circuit sessions, hundreds of hours spent running and stretching. Bring on the next one – I'm in it now. I am a runner.

A couple of tips

I try to keep the advice down in this column, mostly because 80% of it is me learning anyhow and it seems daft to act the expert, but I will offer just a few words on the subject of lengthy runs.

It doesn't look like it, but I really did enjoy Parkrun!

Firstly, if this is something you really want to do, get on and book it in! Having that deadline to work to, and a solid goal to aim at, works wonders as a motivational tool. Most of the organised runs are fairly cheap (around the £10-£25 mark) and are easy to find and book online. If you are really motivated, try and run for a cause or fundraise – it adds extra pressure but ensures you keep your mind on the prize.

Secondly, find some friends. I have absolutely no doubt I would have given up long ago were it not for the support and encouragement of my fellow Monkeys with Parachutes (don't even ask!). They all kept me training and kept my spirits up throughout – as well as making this whole experience more fun than I thought was possible. Thanks so much guys, I'm nowhere without you. I apologise in advance for bugging you into doing many more hours of running with me – its your fault really!

Lastly, if you are planning on going to your first longer race, I suggest you check out Parkrun UK first. I had planned a longer piece on this fantastic organisation, but sadly we just didn't have the space this month, suffice to say it's the perfect training wheels for your first organised race.

Parkrun is a national organisation that helps groups organise 5km runs beginning 9am on Saturdays in green spaces up and down the country. In this area we have at least six, the closest of which is held in Hinchingbrooke Park, and frequented by a number of local running groups including the Ramsey Roadrunners.

It is, without a doubt, the most inclusive, friendly, non-threatening, supportive and approachable event you will attend as a runner. Open to all abilities, ages and species (running with your dog is entirely permitted and completely brilliant), it is the perfect place to familiarise yourself with running as part of a large group. A word or warning, you will find yourself being overtaken by small children, older runners and many dogs (the only one I took offence to was the Labrador holding a massive stick – that's just taking the mickey!), but otherwise its an easy five kilometres that is very much a run and not a race. I managed a personal best on that day though, so I have fond memories...

Onwards and upwards

Of course, this focus on running means I have somewhat neglected the gym this month, but there is still plenty going on at One Leisure. Next month, I'll be following up on something very exciting with the Ramsey Cyclists, as well as exploring some of the other establishments my One Leisure membership allows me access to. As for the running front, there's been plenty of talk amongst my friends about the Great Eastern Run in October, so watch this space…

I'm also very pleased to announce that, alongside former Reporter contributor Sam and Personal Trainer Nicola, I will be launching the Average Bloke's Fitness blog later this month. Taking a look at exercise from the eyes of the average bloke (i.e me!), we'll be tackling all the hurdles of getting into fitness, as well as producing a weekly podcast on subjects of your choosing. Follow the Ramsey Reporter Facebook page for more information.

All that is left for me to say is my customary thank you to those who continue to read these words and support me – particularly those cheering me on at the Parkrun last month. Its always lovely to hear from you, and don't hesitate to say hello or get in touch with your own running/weight loss/fitness tales.

WHY NOT CHALLENGE ADAM?

With this challenge over, we are now looking for another way to make our editor suffer expand his horizons.
Do you have any ideas?
Contact us at mail@ramseyandwarboysreporter.co.uk or call 01487 462 100

Upwood Cricket Club Coaching Update

By Neil Tuffin

New Under 13 Joint Venture with Whittlesey Cricket Club

A New Year brings a new initiative at Upwood Cricket club following on from another very successful season for the Upwood Cricket Club Juniors in 2016. In recent years our under 9 and under 11 coaching sessions have been well attended and we have a good squad of players to chose for the games. We have also produced some excellent girls and boys at this age group with eight members going to county trials and three making the under 11 girls county squad and one into the under 13's. With this in mind we are now looking to the future to make sure that this talented group of players continues to play competitive cricket at Upwood over the next few years. The step up to under 11 cricket requires a full team of 11 and this has been historically hard to achieve for many local clubs and so a new joint venture with Whittlesey Cricket Club is going to happen for the 2017 season. Whittlesey currently have no junior section but are very key to start up coaching and playing and the two clubs have pooled their resources to enter a joint under 13 team in the Huntingdonshire Cricket League this summer.

Winter/Spring Coaching Under 13

With this in mind Upwood and Whittlesey will be offering coaching at Whittlesey Sports Hall for both current under 13 Upwood players and new juniors from the Whittlesey area plus any other youngster looking for some quality coaching and an opportunity to play games this summer.

Coaching will run on Monday nights at Whittlesey Sports Hall from 5-45pm to 6-45 pm from Monday 20th February to Monday 3rd of April. All coaches are security checked and ECB qualified and have had a number of years coaching and working with young adults and children. Cost will be £3 a session. Any one in years 7, 8 or 9 at school (boys and girls) are welcome plus any year 6 who have had some cricket experience. For more info please contact Neil at npe.tuffin@gmail.com or on 07968771138.

Winter/Spring Coaching Under 11

As in previous years Upwood are offering Under 11 coaching indoors at Ramsey Sports Centre for any child in year 1 to 6 at Primary School. This will be held on Saturday or Sunday afternoon's 2pm to 4pm starting from Saturday 25th February to Saturday 11th March and then Sunday 19th March to Sunday April 9th. The All Stars Squad (aimed at novice cricketers) will be from 2pm till 2.50pm and The Development Squad (aimed at children with more sporting experience) will run from 3pm till 4pm. Cost will be £3 for a session. Again these will be run by security checked and ECB qualified coaches.

Summer Junior Cricket

As well as winter training there will be plenty of games for all ages and coaching in the summer – more details to follow.

Adult Training

As well as getting the juniors ready for this summer's cricket the grown-ups will be training on Monday nights at Whittlesey Sports Centre (Sir Harry Smith Community College) from 7pm to 9pm. This starts on the 6th February and the cost will be £3. All are welcome regardless of ability or experience. Upwood are always looking for new recruits to play in their adult teams which play most Saturday and Sundays during the summer.

For any queries about Upwood Cricket please contact Neil on npe.tuffin@gmail.com or on 07968771138.

DARREN AND JAMES GET SET FOR THE LONDON MARATHON

By Jon Cade

Ramsey Pavilion Director Darren Stokes and his good friend and Pavo legend James Gilbert are running the London Marathon on 23rd of April 2017. They are raising money for the children's charity NSPCC and have a joint fundraising target of £2200!

This will be James' 5th marathon and Darren's 2nd with training going well for them both, racking up well over 400 miles between them in January and February, even with the very challenging weather! If all goes well they'll both achieve PB's on the day, but their main aim is to enjoy the experience whilst raising money for a great charity.

Charity golf day

James' wife Katie and mother in law Sharon are organising a coffee morning at Ramsey Cricket Club on the 11th March and Darren along with his fellow Ramsey Pavilion Director Jon Cade and his wife Laura are organising a charity golf day at Ramsey Golf Club on the 13th April.

For further details of these events contact James at work (Crosslands Vehicle Sales) on 01487 813294 or Jon by email at info@ramseypavilionfc.co.uk.

Darren and James want to thank everyone who has donated so far, you can still donate online by going to ***www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Darren-Stokes-and-James-Gilbert***

Ramsey FC **Disqualified**

Ramsey Town FC have been eliminated from a local cup competition after winning a decisive victory in the semi-finals.

The local team, led by manager Lea Jordan, utterly outclassed their lower league opponents Farcet United in the semi-finals of the Peterborough & District League's Intermediate Shield on Saturday 11th February,

However, their 10-0 win was thrown out when it emerged that they fielded an ineligible player, the newly signed Adam Rothery, who scored during the match.

As the semi-final was his debut game, he was not eligible due to having not played in a previous league game for the side, as required by the rules.

Jordan was said to be disappointed by the decision, saying to The Hunts Post that – "It's a situation which has left boss Jordan gutted. He said: "It's a massive shame for the boys that they won't get to play in the final." The game will not be replayed.

However, Ramsey still have plenty to look forward to, having made it through to the Hunts Junior Cup. They are also chasing a second Cup final, The Peterborough Football Association Challenge Cup, and the Division Two title in the Peterborough & District League, having won 15 successive matches in all competitions

THE TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE RETURNS BETTER THAN EVER

This year's tour of Cambridgeshire is already rapidly approaching, with places for the June event already in high demand. A larger festival then ever, thousands of participants and fans are expected to descend on the Peterborough Arena between Friday 2nd and Sunday 4th. Information on road closures will be available in this publication closer to the time, but here now is a run-down of what's going on at this year's expended event.

FRIDAY

Family Fondo
Closed Circuit – 10am Start
Participants: 1,000
Distances: 4, 8 or 12 Miles

The ToC Family Fondo is a fun event for families and beginners held on a 2 mile traffic free circuit on mixed surfaces.

Aimed at families with children and beginner cyclists, this event if for those who want to ride with others in a mass participation event without the stress of a full fondo.

The event is accompanied by a DJ playing motivations tunes. Tour of Cambridgeshire medals will be presented to all children completing their distance. It offers a choice of four, eight or twelve miles in distance.

Folding Bike Fondo
Closed Circuit – 7pm Start
Participants: 100
Distance: 20mins + 1 lap

The ToC Folding Bike Fondo is an event held over 40mins and 1 lap on a 2 mile traffic free circuit on mixed surfaces which tests both stamina, bike handle skills and the ability to break down and erect the folding bike on each lap.

A race specifically for riders competing on Folding Bikes, this event is held on a mixed surface. Depending upon the number of entries there may be heats and finals for this competition. Prizes are awarded for various classifications.

Fixie (and single speed) Fondo
Closed Circuit – 8pm Start
Participants: 100
Distance: 40mins + 1 lap

Fixie and Single Speed Racing is a highly produced race specifically for athletes competing on Fixed wheel or Single Speed bikes. The Fixie and Single Speed Racing is typically held on a mixed surface 2-3 mile closed circuit over a duration of 40 minutes. Depending upon the number of entries at a particular festival there may be heats and finals for this competition.

The ToC Fixie Fondo is located on a 2 mile traffic free circuit on mixed surfaces which tests both stamina and bike handling skills, and is expected to be held over 40mins + 1 lap. Prizes will be awarded over the various classifications.

Electric Bike Trial
Closed Circuit – 9pm Start
Participants: N/A
Distance: 40mins + 1 lap

Electric Bike racing takes the form of a time trial over a 2-3 mile closed road circuit. An Electric Bike Trial is typically 8-10 miles long and open to any form of electric bike available for sale commercially. At any one time there may be around 20 bikes on the circuit at any one time. Drafting is not allowed and the riding will be scrutinised by Commissioners.

The ToC Electric Bike Trial is a 'test' event held on a 2 mile traffic free circuit on mixed surfaces which tests both stamina and bike handling skills. It will be formatted as a time trial over 3 laps, with riders set off at 1 minute intervals.

All riders will receive a time and position on a General Classification.

SATURDAY

Tour of Cambridgeshire Chrono
Closed Roads – 10am Start
Participants: 850
Distance: 16.4mile/26.4km

The ToC Chrono is a UCI qualifying event for the UCI Gran Fondo World Championships. A mass participation time trial, the Chrono is run over a sporting circuit of 16.5 miles on fully closed roads, with the start ramp located within Peterborough Arena.

The Chrono caters for any rider who wishes to take the 'Race of Truth' under Pro conditions. The start sheet is set out according to UCI Masters Age / Gender Classification. There is no seeding.

Additionally, the Chrono contains a highly produced 'Chrono Warm Up' area with a substantial number of Turbos. The professional mechanics set your bikes up on the Turbos and take them off for your start. Clocks are available to inform riders warming up of the time in readiness for their start.

The Chrono has a spectacular Podium. The fastest three riders in each UCI Masters Age / Gender Classification will be invited to a podium ceremony to be awarded UGWFS winners jerseys, medals and prizes.

Gravel Enduro Relay
Closed Circuit – 1pm Start
Participants: 500
Distance: Laps by age/gender

The ToC Gravel Enduro Relay is an endurance team relay held on a 2 mile circuit on mixed surfaces. The Gravel Enduro Relay is for teams of four riders. The winning team is the team to complete the designated number of laps in the quickest time.

Gravel X Endurance Racing is a highly produced race held on closed circuit comprising 2 to 3 miles of mixed surfaces. Suitable for both individuals and teams as either a straight race or a relay, The Gravel X Endurance is often held in the evening with participants use Gravel or Cyclo X bikes. Typically, a single race is run over a period of 2-3hours. Riders are tracked with timing chips, with prizes are awarded for various classifications.

The ToC Gravel Enduro Relay has seven classifications:

- Male (19yrs + as of 31st Dec in the year of the event) 50 laps
- Female (19yrs + as of 31st Dec in the year of the event) 40 laps
- Mixed (at least one member of each sex and 19yrs + as of 31st Dec in the year of the event) 40 laps
- Corporate 30 laps
- U19 18yrs or younger as of 31st Dec in the year of the event 20 laps
- U16 15yrs or younger as of 31st Dec in the year of the event 15 laps
- U14 13yrs or younger as of 31st Dec in the year of the event 12 laps

Team Chrono
Closed Roads – 3pm Start
Participants: 100 teams
Distance: 16.4mile/26.4km

The Team Chrono is a fully produced, mass participation, team time trial run over a sporting circuit of 16.5 miles (26.55km) on fully closed roads for teams of four riders.

Starting under cover in Peterborough Arena, the start line includes a start ramp, sound and lighting, professional commentary and a countdown clock.

The Team Chrono contains a highly produced 'Chrono Warm Up' area with a substantial number of Turbos. The professional mechanics set your bikes up on the Turbos and take them off for your start. Clocks are available to inform riders warming up of the time in readiness for their start.

There are four classifications within a Team Chrono – Male, Female, Mixed and Corporate teams. The Mixed team must contain at least one member from the opposite sex.

Teams set off at 60 second intervals. The time is taken on the third rider to cross the line, with the three riders to count in the results for the Mixed teams required to include at least one member of each sex.

The participants in the Team Chrono are obliged to ride conventional road bikes and wear conventional road style safety helmets.

SUNDAY

The Gran Fondo
Closed Roads – 12 noon Start
Participants: 8,000
Distance: 79.3mile/127.6km

The Gran Fondo caters for riders of all abilities and aspirations, and is known as the cycling equivalent of the London Marathon.

Elite athletes start at the front, with slower club and fun riders towards the back. The start is structured, with those who have a current Race License and who want to be racing against their own UCI age / gender groups placed separately to those who wish to ride with others at a similar speed.

The community who want to start towards the front of the Gran Fondo and race are called the Race Gate, while Those who wish to start with similar riders and want to ride at a similar pace are called the Sport Gate.

Fully supported and produced to make riders feel like a pro, The Gran Fondo is a UCI Gran Fondo World Championships Qualifier event, with the first three riders in each UCI Masters Age / Gender Classification invited to a podium ceremony to be awarded UGFWS winners jerseys, medals and prizes.

A number of the Golazo Cycling Gran Fondo events are part of the UCI Gran Fondo World Series meaning that they are qualifying events for the UCI Gran Fondo World Championships.

Medio Fondo
Closed Roads – 1pm Start
Participants: 1,500
Distance: 56mile/90.2km

Medio Fondo is a timed ride over a shorter distance than the Gran Fondo but still held on closed roads, Aimed at riders who are participating in a cycling road event or the first time, as well those who want to ride a shorter distance, this event will also accept younger riders and families

The rote also offers two pit stops, while the entire event is supported by a medical team comprising both static and mobile resources and a team of motorcycle outriders.

A pace vehicle will follow the Medio Fondo at 12 miles per hour (19.2kph). Riders are expected to stay ahead of the pace vehicle, with roads reopening to traffic behind the pace vehicle.

Tour Classic in Cambridgeshire for pre-1987 bikes
Closed Roads – 1pm Start
Participants: 500
Distance: 56mile/90.2km

The Tour Classic is a timed ride for cyclists on Pre 1987 bikes, with its own highly produced start gate and two pit stops stationed along its route, which is the same as the Medio Fondo route at a Golazo Cycling Festival. The criteria for the Classic Bike eligibility are set out below:

- Vintage steel-framed road racing bicycles built before 1987 or Vintage style road race bikes. Cyclo-cross, Roadsters, Mountain Bike and Time Trial machines are not permitted.
- More recent 'retro' steel frames may be eligible, provided they are of 'classic' design and fitted with pre-1987 equipment or similar replica parts.
- The only aluminium bikes permitted are ALAN and VITUS style frames of the correct period, having either screwed or glued lugs.
- Only friction, 'non-indexed' gears may be used, with either down tube levers or pre 1980 bar-end shifters.
- Pedals should ideally be of period design, ideally with toe clips and straps.
- Gear and brake cables may run within the frame but must run outside of both the handlebars and the handlebar tape.
- Both tubular tyres and clinchers with tubes are permitted.
- Mindful of the difficulty of the route, riders are allowed wider gear ratios than those originally fitted.

Scrutineers may check riders and their bikes for conformity to the above classic bike rules. As the Tour Classic is a race, riders are required to wear cycling helmets manufactured to current recognised safety standards. Prizes will be awarded for the first three male and first the female riders to cross the line.

The Tour Classic is supported by a medical team comprising both static and mobile resources and a team of motorcycle outriders. The Start Sheet will be published online approximately 2 weeks prior to the event.

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The day two group. Pauli Kuikka (SWE), Milan Provaznik (CZE) and Steve Lovell (GBR). (photo credit Daniel Vlcek)

STEVE SHINES IN THE EMERALD ISLE

Local minigolfer Steve Lovell blasted back to form with an impressive fifth place in the first ever Irish Minigolf Open at the Rainforest Adventure Golf Course, Dublin. Steve was three shots outside the prize money going into the last round before breaking his competition personal best with 25 and picking up 65 euros.

World record

Steve said, "I've had the most amazing time. The course allowed for some low scoring and in practice, I unofficially broke the world record for the lowest ever round of Adventure Golf with a 22, a bit of justification for changing to the reverse putting grip. Saturday was a long day with five rounds so I didn't finish as strong as I would like." He continued, "I woke up on the Sunday about as determined as I've ever been and banged in a personal best of 26. I didn't expect to break it again. I beat some good putters today, including the runner up in last year's World Adventure Golf Masters."

In a tight finish, Britain's Adam Kelly beat his compatriot Sean Homer by four shots with Austrian legend Karl Lakos in third. The first Irish champion was Jamie Campbell, who was 43 shots behind Adam. Sweden's Pauli Kuikka did break the world record with a 23 in round two.

Steve Lovell can next be seen in action at the English Open in Nottingham at the beginning of March.

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